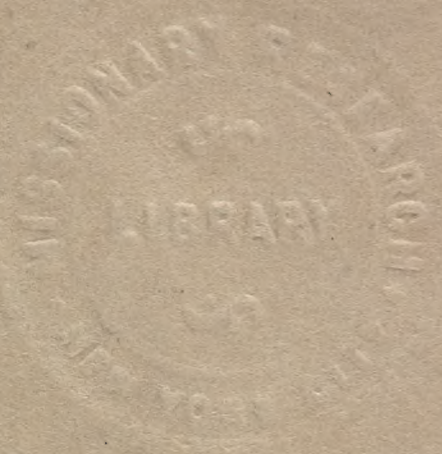


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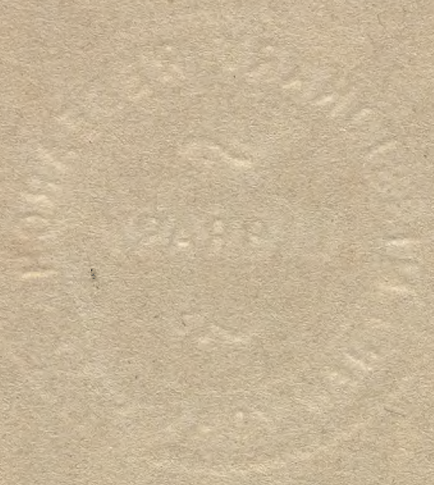
TO

JOHN BROADLEY WILSON, ESQ.

TREASURER OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Price Two Shillings.

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1911

A
LETTER

TO

JOHN BROADLEY WILSON, ESQ.

TREASURER OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY ;

OCCASIONED BY

“ A STATEMENT RELATIVE TO SERAMPORE,

BY J. MARSHMAN, D.D.

WITH INTRODUCTORY OBSERVATIONS, BY JOHN FOSTER ;”

Including Original Correspondence, &c.

BY JOHN DYER,

SECRETARY TO THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

LONDON :

WIGHTMAN & CO. 24, PATERNOSTER ROW ; AND PARBURY,
ALLEN, & CO. 7, LEADENHALL STREET.

1828.

The expense of this publication will not be charged on the funds of the Society;
but should any loss arise, it will be defrayed by private subscription.

A

LETTER

TO JOHN BROADLEY WILSON, ESQ.

MY DEAR SIR,

DURING the many years in which I have been honoured with your friendship, I have had occasion to correspond with you on a variety of subjects, but never on a topic of such painful interest as that which now claims your attention. The Committee of our Society have intimated their wish that I should prepare a reply to the joint pamphlet of Mr. Foster and Dr. Marshman, and I have been induced to draw it up in the form of a letter to yourself, principally by the consideration that you have, for several years, been familiar with the transactions of the Committee, and have aided its councils, especially in relation to the affairs of Serampore. Hence you are competent to judge of the principles by which its decisions have been regulated, and of the degree of accuracy with which certain of its proceedings have been described; and you are well aware that nothing but a plain and perspicuous statement of facts is necessary to vindicate the Committee from the charges which have been preferred against them.

Various considerations, indeed, concur to render some further statement desirable on the part of the Committee. While, on the one hand, in the pamphlet alluded to, their conduct has been reprobated and their motives impugned, in a style of acrimonious invective, which, it may be hoped, will find but few imitators among the professed servants of Christ, others have censured them, with much severity, on the opposite ground; alleging, that the forbearance they have shown towards the Missionaries at Serampore has scarcely been consistent with fidelity to the Christian public.

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2 *Important Services of the Serampore Missionaries.*

There is yet a third class, probably numerous, who comprehend but imperfectly the merits of the question, and would be at a loss to explain the grounds on which the late separation has taken place. Hence it will be requisite to combine with a notice of the specific charges to which I have already alluded, a narrative of facts, somewhat more extended than that given in the Report of the Society for 1827.

It may be of some importance to remark, in the outset, that there is no question whatever as to the services which have been rendered, for many years, to the cause of the Redeemer, in India, by the brethren associated at Serampore. Should a reader of the 'Statement' suppose, from the manner in which this subject is introduced, that the Committee have endeavoured to conceal or depreciate these services, he would be entirely mistaken. It is granted, not in the shape of a reluctant concession, but as the willing tribute of grateful and admiring esteem, that few individuals, if any, have devoted themselves more laboriously, perseveringly, and successfully, to the work of Christian Missions than Carey, Marshman, and Ward. Their zeal and self-devotion to this great work have caused many to abound in thanksgivings on their behalf; and their exertions, especially in the department of Biblical translation, will doubtless be attended with most important and beneficial results, long after they shall have descended to the tomb. These considerations, always familiar and welcome to the minds of those who have conducted the affairs of the Society, predisposed them to judge favourably of all that emanated from Serampore, and to differ from the brethren there with extreme reluctance. Still, the Committee would not have been justified in surrendering their judgment altogether; and conceive they would have established a dangerous precedent in doing so. Experience has constantly shewn that the best of men are imperfect, and liable to much inconsistency; and on such occasions, Christian affection itself requires that a faithful and decided testimony should be borne against what appears to be erroneous or defective. There can be no question that Peter was regarded with the utmost veneration by the infant church. He had been the chosen associate of their incarnate Lord; thousands had been converted by a single discourse from his lips, and a messenger from heaven had been dispatched to rescue him from the malice of Herod; but yet, when a junior apostle perceived that he deviated from the plain, straight-forward course of Christian simplicity, he withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.

In the course of the following pages, historical fidelity will render it necessary to advert with more distinctness and frequency to Dr. Marshman, than to either of his learned colleagues. The reasons for this will probably be so obvious as to render it superfluous to disclaim all feelings of personal resentment or hostility; nor should I have adverted to the circumstance, but for the sake of apprizing the reader that it will be my endeavour to furnish an impartial narrative of facts, and the documents which support them, rather than to occupy his attention by encomiums on my friends, or accusations against those from whom we differ. I might indeed plead the high authority of Mr. Foster for a different course; but even that authority will not prevail with me to adopt a plan of which the policy is far more evident than the candour, and which amply justifies him in declining to make any professions of impartiality. By commencing with a highly wrought panegyric on the *character* of his guest, he prepares his readers to infer that his *conduct* must be free from blame; while, on the other hand, from what he assumes to have been the *conduct* of the Committee, he denounces them as influenced by motives and principles which every honourable mind must detest and abhor. This mode of proceeding may, probably, have been suggested by his extreme anxiety 'to strike hard somewhere.' It may have been felt that his cause required it. However this may be, I am solicitous to appear rather as the *historian* than the *advocate*; believing that this will be the most likely course to enable others to form a correct judgment on the questions at issue, and also that, in the present incipient stage of such undertakings, a faithful recital, even of the less agreeable portions of missionary history, may prove of some service to those engaged now, or hereafter, in the arduous and responsible office of conducting them.

In meditating the plan of the present publication, some difficulty has arisen from the irregular and desultory form of the pamphlet which must be principally noticed. To follow the writers page after page, and comment upon each paragraph as it stands, would be levying a far heavier tax on the patience of the reader than he would be willing to pay; while some may be ready to suspect that, if any portion of the Statement or its Preface should remain unnoticed, that portion was felt to be unanswerable. The point to be attained is, to be sufficiently comprehensive without being tedious; and perhaps this may be best accomplished by considering the pamphlet in two points of view; first, as it may

be supposed to affect or invalidate the account published by the Committee in the Report for 1827; and secondly, as it contains various charges against the Committee, in their transactions with Serampore generally, and with Dr. Marshman in particular. Should it appear, that any point which it is material to introduce, cannot with propriety be noticed under one or other of these heads, it shall be separately adverted to.

IN the month of March 1827, at a special meeting of the General Committee, forty members being present, discussions took place, of which we shall speak more particularly hereafter, between Dr. Marshman and the Committee, which terminated in a separation between the Society and the Serampore Missionaries. As this was the result of a series of transactions and a course of correspondence which had been continued for several years, but which the Committee had not made public, in the prolonged and anxious hope of a different issue, it became their duty to announce the fact and the reasons of their conduct to those on whose behalf they had been acting, and who, naturally enough, required the information. This was given, three months afterwards, in the Annual Report of the Society; in which the utmost care was taken to avoid every thing controversial, and to present a compendious narrative of the facts bearing upon, and leading to the result announced, and which related to the mission property at Serampore—to the College founded by the brethren there—and to the mode in which Dr. Marshman proposed to carry on, and provide for, the missionary operations at that station.

The statement of these particulars, then, being indispensable in the discharge of the regular official duty of the Committee, let us examine whether any, and what exceptions are taken against it by Dr. Marshman. (See Statement, page 92.)

He objects, first, to the 'prominence given to the question respecting the premises,' as tending to injure the Serampore brethren in the eyes of the public—a complaint which involves a concession I was scarcely prepared to expect. The 'prominence' referred to consists, as every reader may satisfy himself by turning to the Report, in a bare recital of the *facts* of the case. Not one of these is denied or called in question. Yet this statement, it seems, is likely to diminish the public confidence in the individuals whose conduct it

describes. But this is precisely what the Committee have constantly foreseen, and which has led them so earnestly to entreat their friends at Serampore to retrace their steps, and revert to the principles on which they set out. Surely Dr. Marshman and his venerable colleague will at length be convinced that these remonstrances were dictated by some better feeling than rapacity and a love of power!

The only remaining objection which Dr. Marshman urges against the Report, is, that it includes a brief notice of the Benevolent Institution in Calcutta. On this subject it may be sufficient to remark, that the valuable seminary in question, founded by the Serampore brethren, in 1809, is supported by public contributions from the Indian public, which having of late proved inadequate, pecuniary aid has been kindly furnished by the Bengal Government. Mr. and Mrs. Penney, by whom the Institution has been long and officially conducted, are in full connexion with the Society in England: and the quarterly letters of the Missionaries from Calcutta, generally transmitted in the hand-writing of Mr. Penney himself, contain those particulars which are published in the Herald, and embodied in the Report. It is left to the reader to decide whether this method of proceeding has any thing unfair or 'disingenuous' in it. Till the publication of the 'Statement,' there was not the slightest suspicion that it gave, or could possibly give, any umbrage at Serampore.

The accuracy, then, of the statements given in the Report remains unimpeached, and, it may certainly be concluded, unimpeachable: and I may appeal to every reader whether this single fact does not furnish a strong presumption, to say no more, in favour, not merely of the honest, but of the kindly intentions of those who prepared it. Here was an account to be given to the public of facts spread over a surface of several years, of a protracted series of perplexed and harassing discussions, terminating at length unsuccessfully. That account is given by one of the parties engaged—it is felt to operate unfavourably to the interests of the other—but no mis-statement whatever can, by the aggrieved party, be detected. This consideration may have its use, when we proceed to notice the imputations which have been so unsparingly heaped upon the Committee.

Before, however, we dismiss this part of the subject, it must be remarked, that Dr. Marshman has not only virtually admitted the correctness of the statements given in the Report; he has done much more—he has ratified the principles on which the Committee have proceeded, and es-

tablished, by his concessions, several points of material importance in the controversy, but which, previously to the separation, were never acknowledged. To this subject a slight reference for the present will be enough; it may be needful to advert to it more at length in our progress.

The Committee have all along been persuaded that the Explanatory Declaration, appended to the letter from the Serampore Missionaries in September 1817, did, as far as it was valid, annul the right of the Society to the premises at Serampore. This the brethren there have uniformly refused to allow, and declared it to be their fixed resolution immoveably to adhere to the mode of settlement there laid down. Now, it is expressly admitted, 'that the insertion of the word *property* in the Explanatory Declaration was exceptionable.*' But this admission, slight as it may appear, is, in effect, an abandonment of the Declaration itself, which derives its whole force and meaning from the introduction of the word in question.

Again, the Committee were unanimously of opinion, that, to place the control and direction of missionary stations under a College Council, consisting of not more than five members, all vacancies being filled up by the existing members, and each chosen *for life*, was an arrangement little calculated to promote the spiritual interests of such stations. It was conceived that a body so constituted could afford no security, scarcely even warrant a hope of the preservation of right principles, or of a devoted spirit; and for this reason, as Mr. Foster truly states† (with some doubt however, whether his readers could believe the assertion), another arrangement was proposed, which would preclude such a connexion. But Dr. Marshman now 'acknowledges, that to place missionary stations under the professors of a college, merely as such, would be objectionable;‡ that is, he has discovered the Serampore plan to be indefensible, and that the views entertained by the Committee on this subject are correct.

So far, then, the case of the Committee remains not only untouched, but confirmed by what has subsequently been published by Dr. Marshman. Had any doubts existed, as to the propriety of the course adopted by them, these doubts must yield to the evidence, which, from such an unexpected quarter, has been furnished. But I am not aware that any hesitation has been felt by those who have been even moderately acquainted with the state of the question. All have ap-

* Brief Memoir, p. 65.

† Preface, p. xx.

‡ Brief Memoir, p. 75.

peared to deem the separation unavoidable, while most, at the same time, have concurred deeply in lamenting it. I do not perceive, even, that Mr. Foster intimates an opinion, that these discussions could have had any other termination. But as he vehemently condemns the conduct of the Committee on various accounts, and the more cautious and moderate statements of Dr. Marshman are adapted also to produce an almost equally disadvantageous impression, we must proceed to notice these, and offer such explanations as the case may require.

THE first, and most prominent charge alleged against the Committee, is that of indulging a *malicious* and *hostile* spirit against Serampore generally, and Dr. Marshman in particular. According to Mr. Foster, they have 'set themselves to the business of exploding the merits, and crippling the exertions of these distinguished men,' 'inventing every imaginable aggravation of the calumnies against' Dr. Marshman, and blackening his character by imputations which are 'found to take, greatly to the satisfaction, and not a little to the amusement of certain parties interested in the deception, who have some difficulty to forbear telling, for the credit of their shrewdness, that they knew better.' I had thought of bringing into one view, the various expressions of a similar import contained in the 'Preface,' but this would be to transcribe no inconsiderable part of it. All who have read it know perfectly that this is the substance of the accusation, urged with all the force of expression peculiar to the justly celebrated author. The soft touch of such terms as 'misinformed,' 'misled,' he refuses to admit, as, in truth he ought to do, in favour of the 'fabricators of malicious falsehoods.' Nothing less than the most rancorous malice, operating by the appropriate means of wilful and deliberate falsehood, is the charge he exhibits; and that with the air of a man perfectly assured of the truth of what he writes, and prepared with all the evidence necessary to sustain it. His readers, indeed, will scarcely allow themselves to inquire after evidence at all: every other feeling will be lost in contempt and abhorrence of the culprits so fearlessly denounced, and in approving admiration of the champion, who has thus indignantly stepped forward in defence of an injured friend, in danger of falling a prey to the foulest passions which disgrace human nature.

I am perfectly aware that it will appear extremely cold

and meagre to reply to such a torrent of high-sounding and eloquent invective by a simple negation ; but when an accuser ventures to assume the prerogative of the supreme judge, and ascribe to his fellow-servants motives, dispositions, and intentions which they detest as much as he can do—without adducing a single fact to substantiate the charge—what other course remains ? If it be said that proofs of an opposite spirit should be produced in order to wipe away all suspicion, these, perhaps, may be furnished in the details which must be given ere this pamphlet is completed.

I cannot feel the least surprise that Mr. Foster should consider himself as having undertaken ‘ a wretchedly invidious office.’ Perhaps nothing can be more so, than on slight and insufficient grounds (for malice *I* do not impute), to asperse the characters of a body of men, not wholly devoid of reputation, whose only crime has been that of endeavouring faithfully and conscientiously to execute the trust confided to their hands. As individuals, we may well be content to leave our cause with Him who judgeth righteously, and who has directed his servants, when they are reviled, not to revile again ; but it is impossible not to perceive, that in proportion as such representations gain credit, public confidence itself will be impaired, and the resources and consequent efficiency of our benevolent institutions diminished. Such a result, I feel assured, Mr. Foster would deplore : I cannot, therefore, but lament that before he hazarded such grave imputations, he had not availed himself of the means, perfectly within his reach, of ascertaining the nature and extent of the evidence by which they are supported.

CONSIDERABLE stress is laid in the Preface, on the fact that several papers have been inserted in the Magazines connected with the denomination, bearing an unfriendly aspect towards Dr. Marshman ; and that a variety of reports are circulated in various quarters, tending to undermine his reputation. The Committee, indeed, are not charged, as a body, with authorizing or sanctioning the articles in question ; but then, it seems, it was their duty distinctly to announce to the public *how far* they coincided with their writers ; and to what extent they believed the defamatory hearsay statements, which, it is alleged, are made against Dr. Marshman and the Serampore Missionaries ; in default of which, all the censure belonging to the individual authors or relaters of such statements must fall upon their heads. To some

who read these lines, the bare recital of such a charge will be its own refutation; to others, a few words in explanation may be required.

With the periodical publications to which allusion is made, the Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society, as such, have no connexion whatever, except that, by their medium, the *Missionary Herald*, published monthly by the secretary, is conveyed to all their readers. Two or three of the ministers, who act as editors of one of them, are also members of the Committee; but this involves no consultation or privity, in respect of the articles which shall appear in its pages. Such an interference would be most irregular and indecorous. If, therefore, the Review of Dr. Marshman's Statement in the *Baptist Magazine*, or the various papers which have been inserted in the *New Baptist Miscellany*, are deemed objectionable or injurious, the authors, and they alone, are responsible for them. 'Let every man bear his own burden.'

On the merits or demerits of the papers in question, I am not called upon to offer an opinion: that was frankly given, as some of the authors will remember, long before the 'Statement' made its appearance. It may, however, be remarked as not unnatural, that, after a meeting so important in the eyes of the whole denomination, as that in March 1827, the conductors of a Magazine should give their readers some account of it;* and that the same subject should be afterwards referred to in their pages was not more surprising. Whatever errors in statement, or deficiency in Christian temper, may have characterized these productions, must be matter of regret to every good man; but these it was competent to any person, so inclined, to point out. The Magazines contain papers furnished by the friends of Dr. Marshman, and written professedly in his vindication, as well as by his opponents: and having made inquiry, I am assured that no article of this character has, by either, been rejected. These observations, I

* Of this article Mr. Foster has informed the world 'the Secretary had a previous knowledge;' to which Dr. Marshman adds, 'that he procured the omission of some of the worst expressions it contained.' It is even so. Being at the printing office on other business, this paper set up in type, fell under my notice: observing some errors in the narrative, I procured their correction; but as to authority, possessing none, I could not attempt to exercise it. Whatever my opinion of the style of the article might be, I could not be ignorant that the account it gave of the meeting corresponded with the impressions made on the minds of a large number of the Committee.

10 *The Disclaimer required by Mr. Foster impossible.*

confess, are rather foreign to my purpose; but as it seems intended to insinuate that the periodicals in question are the vehicles through which the Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society were secretly attacking Dr. Marshman, for want of courage to do so openly, they may not be deemed entirely out of place.

The delinquency of the Committee, however, appears, in Mr. Foster's estimation, to be rather *negative* than *positive*. They should have stated publicly what part of the prevailing crimination they knew or believed to be unjust; and their declining to do this 'was acting a part from which the most determined enemy, who possessed the least of justice or generosity, would have revolted.' This official and public declaration, if I understand rightly, ought to embrace every thing said or written concerning Dr. Marshman, precisely distinguishing how much, if any, was authorized by the Committee, and how much must be left to rest upon the unsupported testimony of the relaters! 'I really feel it a waste of time to make a formal defence against such an accusation; but as some readers may be as ignorant of the constitution, business, and employments of a Committee, as Mr. Foster owns himself to be, I offer for their sake the following considerations:—

1. All that is reported concerning Dr. Marshman is not known to the Committee. Several matters of the 'prevailing crimination,' specified in the 'Statement' before me, were first brought to my knowledge by reading them there.

2. The Committee have taken no such measures in their own vindication. Statements have been circulated as injurious to the character of some of its leading members and friends as any directed against Dr. Marshman, which they have left quietly to expire.

3. It has long been the practice to transact business relative to Serampore only at the quarterly meetings of the Committee, from which alone any document of the nature required could emanate.

4. It will be supposed that, on points of such delicacy, there is a considerable diversity of opinion among the members of the Committee themselves; so that, while there has been a remarkable unanimity on the great points of the question, nothing of the sort could be expected, if *particulars* were entered upon.

But supposing none of these obstacles existed:—imagine that the Committee were furnished with an accurate specification of all the writings and sayings on which their judg-

ment was required—that the few brief hours during which alone they can assemble were, by some happy coincidence, left wholly unincumbered, no other business, foreign or domestic, from the East Indies or the West, claiming their attention—and that, moreover, what is equally probable, the members present were of one mind as to the degree of blame attaching to each particular of the indictment we suppose to have been laid before them—what would the result be? Why, that they must appear before the public as the *accusers* of Dr. Marshman and his colleagues, since of course whatever they did *not* disavow, would be regarded as established by their authority. But this is a position they never would voluntarily take; the whole bent of their endeavours has uniformly been to avoid even the remote semblance of it.

It never occurred to me that a Committee could possibly be supposed responsible for Reviews, or Articles of Intelligence, inserted in works over which they have no more control than Dr. Marshman himself. But when I was apprized of the publication of an article which might be supposed, from its contents, to be prepared with the privity of the Committee, I took immediate steps, in the most public manner, to disclaim it;* assured that my doing so would be approved by them. This disclaimer has since been repeated; and it is cheerfully left to every impartial reader to determine whether the charge thus made against the Committee be well-founded, and whether the course prescribed for them by Mr. Foster could have been adopted with the least propriety.

WE are assured by Mr. Foster that ‘the subject, which most of all Dr. Marshman would gladly have avoided is, the spirit and conduct experienced from the Society’s Missionaries at Calcutta.’ This I am fully disposed to believe, though I can by no means concur with his resolute apologist in ascribing this reluctance merely to ‘benevolence’ towards the individuals alluded to. Happy should I have been, had Dr. Marshman’s better judgment never yielded to the unwise solicitations of his friends and advisers to drag forward this topic. But as it has been done, and the Calcutta Missionaries have, in consequence, been placed in a most invidious light before the world, they will answer for themselves; and

* In the *Missionary Herald* for March 1828.

it will be necessary for me only to make a remark or two, explanatory of the conduct of the Committee in reference to this point.

To the insinuation (Preface, p. xlv.) that the junior missionaries may have been required to act in the spirit of hostility against Serampore by those who sent them out, it may be sufficient to reply, that, in reality, it is directed rather against the venerable founders of the mission, than against its present conductors. Those members of the Calcutta confederacy who are the most obnoxious to Dr. Marshman, were selected and sent forth to their work by *Fuller, Sutcliff, and Ryland*. Is it meant to imply that *they* instructed Messrs. Yates, Lawson, and Eustace Carey to annoy and distress the elder brethren?

It is true that the brethren who have just been named, as well as others, had not been long in India before they felt themselves aggrieved by the proceedings of the missionaries at Serampore. This subject was first brought under the notice of the Committee held at Birmingham, August 19, 1818 and the result was embodied in the following minute:—

‘ Having maturely deliberated on the correspondence from our junior brethren at Calcutta, it was resolved, That we are disposed to do every thing in our power to promote their usefulness and happiness, and are highly gratified with their zeal in the work of God, and the attachment they have expressed to the Society: but, on account of many intricacies arising from their great distance, and the nature of their present circumstances, we are unable to arrive at any fixed determination on their case, without obtaining longer time for consideration, and more information on the business.’

As the Committee, at that time, could assemble but three or four times in the year, it was felt to be impossible, without neglecting other business, to enter into such a full investigation of the matter as would justify a more explicit decision. But when, in the following year, 1819, a more efficient plan was adopted for managing the business of the Society, by fixing the seat of the mission in London, it became one of the earliest objects of attention to the enlarged Committee. With this view, after the whole correspondence had been carefully examined, (December 1819,) three members of the Committee, Dr. Olinthus Gregory, of Woolwich, the late Mr. Saffery, of Salisbury, and Mr. Hoby, now of Weymouth, were requested, in conjunction with the Secretary, to embody the views of all the members in a series of resolutions, to be forthwith communicated to our friends in

Bengal. At the next meeting, Jan. 25, 1820, the following resolutions were accordingly presented, and unanimously adopted:—

‘ I. That this Committee have viewed, with the deepest regret, the lamentable dissensions which have existed between their brethren at Serampore and Calcutta. On the origin and causes of these misunderstandings they forbear to express their opinion, but feel themselves called on to recommend, with the utmost solemnity and earnestness, as the only probable method of preserving the credit and securing the usefulness of the Mission, that both their senior and junior brethren would immediately consider what measures can be adopted for the restoration of mutual confidence, and harmonious co-operation as Missionaries labouring in connexion with the same Society.

‘ II. That with this view the Committee urgently and affectionately recommend that a meeting be held, by mutual appointment, between our said brethren for the especial purpose of consulting with each other on the various points of difference; and the Committee are fully convinced, that if each of these Missionaries is actuated by that spirit of Christian meekness and conciliation which has been displayed in the correspondence of the venerable father of the Mission, Dr. Carey, they shall soon have to rejoice in the final termination of these distressing contentions.

‘ III. That when our brethren meet, as recommended in the foregoing resolution, they be requested particularly to adopt some plan which may be mutually satisfactory for the arrangement of the concerns of the Lal Bazar Chapel, that so our younger brethren may be re-united in Church fellowship there, as it appears to us desirable that no additional place of worship should be employed for service in English at Calcutta, till it shall be deemed advisable by the collective body of Missionaries at Serampore and Calcutta.

‘ IV. That we earnestly recommend our junior brethren, in conducting their various establishments for printing, schools, &c. carefully to guard against adopting any measures which may wear the appearance of competition or rivalry with similar establishments at Serampore; but on the contrary, we would intreat them to aim at such mutual co-operation, as that each may render assistance and encouragement to the other.’

The following minute is subjoined.

‘ The Committee, having unanimously passed the foregoing resolutions, earnestly recommending a meeting between our senior brethren at Serampore, and our junior brethren at Calcutta, with the hope of re-uniting them in the bonds of Christian harmony and affection, and having resumed the serious consideration of what might be proper for them to do under present circumstances, are unanimously of opinion, that the further interference of this Committee is not expedient until the result of such an attempt at reconciliation is known, and

14 *Reconciliation effected at the Instance of the Committee.*

which attempt it is their anxious wish and earnest prayer may be successful.

These resolutions were immediately transmitted, both to Serampore and Calcutta. The letter of Dr. Ryland to the senior brethren, I insert; as I would, with equal readiness, that sent to Calcutta by his colleague, but for its length.

TO DR. CAREY AND DR. MARSHMAN.

London, Jan. 25, 1820.

‘ DEAR BRETHREN,

‘ I came to London yesterday to attend the Meeting of our Committee, who have taken a room in Wood Street, for the transaction of business, where the Central Committee meet every month, and have, I am sure, taken great pains to examine carefully and impartially into all the circumstances which for a long time past have filled our minds with great anxiety, and made our hearts tremble for the Ark of God.

At the request of a full Committee, many of our distant friends being present this day, I now enclose you a copy of several resolutions, which were proposed last month and communicated to brother Ward, who expressed his full concurrence with them; and which were this day unanimously confirmed. We hope nothing will prevent our cordial agreement with you on the subjects to which they relate: brother Ward has, doubtless, informed you, that we felt it absolutely necessary to come to a final arrangement on these points; and we trust that the way will now be prepared for an agreeable settlement of all the subjects of difference, abroad as well as at home.

‘ We were never more cordially united here, and we trust you will now be convinced that your suspicions of any unfriendly desire to risk the injury of your domestic comfort, were groundless, and that we were only anxious to preserve your honour and your consistency, as well as promote the glory of God.

‘ I am, dear brethren,

‘ Yours most affectionately,

‘ JOHN RYLAND.’

These communications reached Calcutta in the following July. The recommendation so earnestly given was acted upon, and in October Dr. Carey acquainted the Committee with the result, through the medium of his friend Dr. Ryland, in the following terms:—‘ It will afford you pleasure to learn that a termination has been put to the disputes between us and the younger brethren. In consequence of the letter sent by the Society, they wrote us a letter proposing a meeting, to which we agreed. We met at the time appointed,

opened our meeting in prayer, and then proceeded to business. I believe our ideas were at last mutually understood; and we parted, agreeing to forgive on both sides all unkind expressions or actions to which the state of irritation which had previously existed had given rise.

Thus the cheering anticipation expressed by Dr. Carey in a previous letter to myself, in reference to this unpleasant topic, was fully realized. 'If I am not mistaken each side (Serampore and Calcutta) will soon acknowledge that it has gone too far in some instances; I expect that the fire of contention will gradually go out.' Justice to this excellent man requires me to add that his subsequent correspondence has borne testimony to the cordial affection subsisting between himself and the younger Missionaries,* and that, on a variety of occasions, he has readily united with them in the public worship of God. Nor have there been any subsequent differences, that I am aware of, between the parties thus happily reconciled by the express mediation of the Committee. That, after a lapse of *eight* years, Dr. Marshman should expose to the public eye occurrences which had thus been mutually buried in oblivion, and the revival of which can answer no good purpose whatever, is, to me, a source equally of surprise and of regret. Since, however, such a step has been taken, our esteemed brethren from Calcutta are constrained to state their own case; and they will, of course, take the same opportunity to notice the charges of 'calumny' and 'detraction' by which they have been so liberally assailed.

I HAVE had some doubts whether I should allude to the remarks made both in the 'Preface'† and in the 'Statement'‡ on the views which have been entertained as to the degree of influence exercised at Serampore, respectively, by Dr. Carey and Dr. Marshman. Why should matters of so delicate a nature, which can scarcely be hinted at, without wounding an upright and honourable mind, be made the theme of public discussion? Dr. Marshman well knows that

* Take the following as a specimen: 'The most prominent and one of the most encouraging things in the present state of Indian Missions, is the harmony which subsists between all engaged in the work. Excepting the mere circumstance of a separation having taken place, and that consequent distinct attention to our respective churches and congregations, we and the junior brethren are cordially united, and I believe sincerely love one another.' *Dr. Carey to Mr. Dyer, January 23, 1823.*

† Page xlv.

‡ Page 9.

the complaint alleged against his venerable colleague, does not rest simply upon the 'unshaken love' borne to himself; and Mr. Foster is distinctly and explicitly assured that 'those in the interior management of the Committee have in their possession 'plenty of evidence' that the 'notion' of which he speaks is *not* 'fiction.' That evidence, however, shall not, without more urgent necessity, be produced; especially as the very 'Statement' itself will furnish both an illustration and a confirmation of what we mean. Let the reader turn to page 133, and he will find Dr. Carey made to speak in high terms of his own wisdom and firmness! He is universally known to be one of the humblest and most modest of human beings, and yet his name is affixed, in the foremost place, to a public document in which we are told 'at this juncture the wisdom and firmness of brother Carey were of the utmost value.' I will not enlarge on a topic which nothing but a sense of justice would have induced me to touch; nor is this to be understood as involving, of itself, any delinquency in either party. In all combinations of individuals, for any purpose, there are invariably some, on whom the chief direction and management naturally devolve—there may be others, who, intent on some particular object, and satisfied as to the principles and character of their more active associates, willingly resign to them the task of planning and executing the measures in which all officially concur. That such has been nearly the state of things at Serampore, would, I believe, be the opinion of Mr. Foster, if he were more fully acquainted with the subject.

I DEEM it incumbent upon me frankly to state that Mr. Foster has expressed what has long been the apprehension of the Committee, when (page ix.) he speaks of 'the system at Serampore having degenerated from its primitive purity.' The best of men are not proof against the fascinations of human applause and 'the seductions of worldly ambition,' and nothing would afford me greater delight than to be satisfied that each of the elder Missionaries had wholly escaped their injurious influence. On this point Dr. Marshman cannot but remember the faithful remonstrances and solemn warnings of the late excellent Dr. Ryland; others may learn them from the language he was constrained to employ, when writing to Dr. Carey in January 1820. 'If I were to die to-morrow, I should tremble to appear before God, if I did not bear a dying warning against that love of glory, which seems to me

to have supplanted the Christian temper I once believed to influence one of your colleagues.' Ten years ago, one of our Missionary brethren, whose Christian character none who know him will call in question, thus stated the ground of his secession from Serampore: 'The flattery of the serious, and the influence of the profane have introduced so much worldly mindedness into the whole concern, that I considered it my duty to come out and be separate.' It may, possibly, be said that this was merely the ebullition of a discontented and factious spirit; but a similar occurrence, which has just transpired, and against which no such exception can be taken, serves yet more strongly to corroborate the painful impression to which I have referred. What, let me ask, has induced Mr. Swan, late Professor of Theology at the Serampore College, a person spoken of in terms of merited commendation by Dr. Marshman himself, to resign his appointment, and cast himself and his infant family upon the care of Providence? His own account is, that the Serampore Union, as at present constituted, appears to him so little adapted to promote the great spiritual objects to which he had devoted his life, that he should 'tremble' to enter into it: that 'there is no individual there with whom he would enter into such a solemn, responsible, religious connexion, but the venerable Dr. Carey.' I can sincerely aver, that I mention these things with the deepest regret; but I conceive that 'necessity is laid upon me;' and that Christian faithfulness forbids them to be concealed.

This, perhaps, is the most proper place to refer to that document from Serampore, which filled the Committee with the greatest solicitude as to the growth of a secular spirit there. It bore date January 20, 1820, was entitled 'Articles of Union' between the brethren associated there, and was officially communicated to the Committee by Mr. Ward in person July 25, of that year. Dr. Marshman has informed me that it underwent some modifications after Mr. Ward's return, and therefore I do not insert it here lest it should be thought that I wished to create a more unfavourable impression than the document, as revised, would warrant. The following paper, delivered to Mr. Ward about two months after (September 18), will shew what impression it had made upon the minds of the Committee, all of whom had been furnished with a copy for their consideration.

'The Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society, having perused and attentively considered a document, signed *William Carey*,

J. Marshman, John Marshman, bearing date, Serampore, 20th January, 1820, purporting to be "Articles of Union" between the parties; and having also held frequent conversations with our friend and brother Mr. Ward (now in England) regarding the different views which our brethren at Serampore entertain, respecting the future arrangements for the Baptist Mission in India—

'They think it their imperious duty to declare; That it is with deep regret they now witness a "Plan of Union" entered into at Serampore, differing in many material points from the *agreements* entered into, as well as from the *professions* made, in the origin of this Missionary Institution; and they cannot refrain from expressing, with heartfelt concern, their full persuasion that it retains only the *semblance* of a connexion with the parent Society;—and that if it be adhered to, it most unquestionably tends to the formation of the brethren at Serampore into a distinct and separate body. They also declare, that they cannot but view, with painful emotions, the situation in which the 'Baptist Mission' (hitherto an object of veneration to the Christian public) must be placed; as they are deeply convinced that it is not possible to reconcile the later communications of their Serampore brethren with the original design of the first promoters of this Mission; nor with their own avowed sentiments on former occasions. Whatever may be the result of these discordant views, the Committee have the satisfaction of reflecting, that, in their Resolutions of the 31st of December last, they have suggested those measures, to remove difficulties, and to promote reconciliation and concord, which, in their judgments, are best adapted to secure the true interests of the Mission. These Resolutions, they still hope, will have a tendency to remove from the minds of their brethren at Serampore many groundless jealousies respecting the friends to whom the management of the Mission is entrusted in Britain, and to satisfy them that they are sincerely desirous of removing every just occasion of offence, and of cordially co-operating with them in the promotion of that important object in which they have hitherto been united—as Brethren of the family of God.

'The Committee cannot but deprecate disunion in this Society. Could their voice be heard by the brethren at Serampore, they would with Christian importunity implore them to pause, before they finally decide on a measure which must so materially affect the character of the Baptist Mission and paralyze their energies, which its real friends had fondly hoped would, by the united efforts of India and of Britain, under a divine blessing, be made conducive to the extension of its usefulness and its honour.

'The Committee finally declare that they are willing to make every sacrifice to meet the wishes of their brethren at Serampore, consistent with "integrity and uprightness," to preserve the union entire and on the foundations on which it was first established; but beyond this bound they possess not the authority, nor have they the inclination, to pass, persuaded that the path of rectitude is that of ultimate safety and peace.'

The accounts given, both in the Statement and its Preface, of the meetings between Dr. Marshman and the Committee, have occasioned, as well they might, much surprise in the minds of those who were present. I am far from accusing Dr. Marshman of intentional mis-statements; but am constrained to say that the details he has published (page 8—12.) of the meeting held August 3, 1826, vary so materially from the fact, as to render it exceedingly unsafe for him to rely on his memory in such cases for the future. Nor is this a solitary instance of the kind; again and again, have similar discrepancies reminded me of a descriptive expression used by Mr. Ward, respecting Dr. Marshman, many years ago, 'About business he has no settled recollection.'

Had we no means of judging of the accuracy of the Statement referred to but the recollection of other individuals, it might be fairly objected that one was equally liable with another to defects in memory; but in this case other means exist. Aware that the meeting was of considerable importance, I had requested a member of the Committee, whose skill in stenography is well known*, to secure the discussion as it took place. With this request he obligingly complied; his notes, fairly transcribed, now lie before me, and fully corroborate the impression produced in the mind of every individual present on the occasion, with whom I have since conversed on the subject, that the narration of Dr. Marshman bears a very faint resemblance indeed to what really occurred.

It appears, from the document before me, that Dr. Marshman entered the room while certain letters were being read, written by Dr. Carey in 1794 and 1795. The respected friend to whom he alludes (Joseph Gutteridge, Esq.)† was in the chair, and introduced the business of the day by briefly remarking to Dr. Marshman that probably a difference of opinion would continue to exist between the Committee and their friends at Serampore on past transactions; but that we were met to see what could be done to promote the great object, and that he would adopt the prayer of the apostle, 'Let all bitterness, wrath, and evil speaking be put away from you.'

After a few words of remark, Dr. Marshman asked, 'Do you esteem your brethren at Serampore as co-operating with you, and as perfectly independent of you as you are of them?' It was stated in reply that for many years the word 'inde-

* W. B. Gurney, Esq.

† Statement, p. 8.

pendent' was never heard of, that they had declared themselves to be so, and the Committee had since acted with them as fellow-workers, without claiming any authority; and the resolution of Dec. 31, 1819,* was appealed to in confirmation of this statement. This resolution, the Dr. remarked, was unsatisfactory; to disclaim an *intention* was one thing; to disclaim the *right* was another; and proceeded to explain his own views on the subject at some length, gravely inquiring at the close whether the Committee claimed the same right over them as a West India planter did over his slave? To such a question, of course, there was no difficulty in replying; but it appeared that nothing would satisfy the Doctor except an explicit declaration on the part of the Committee that, when Missionaries were placed in the situation in which he and his colleagues stood, they became, both *de facto* and *de jure*, wholly independent of the Society which sent them forth, a proposition on which the Committee had never deliberated, and involving such a reference to the first principles of all Missionary Societies, that it was clearly impossible to decide upon it at the moment.

Then, a reference being made to the subject of property, the chairman adverted to the assertions often made by Mr. Fuller as to the value of the property of the Society in India, on which Dr. Marshman remarked that he (Mr. Fuller) was mistaken, was totally wrong, and that we must allow he was a fallible man. This remark he followed up by a copious explanation of the circumstances under which the premises at Serampore were purchased, and a reference to the 'indelicacy' of the Committee at home expressing any opinion on the mode of securing them. He was reminded, that the interference of which he complained arose from Mr. Ward's letter of March 11, 1816, expressing his great anxiety on the subject: but this letter, Dr. Marshman affirmed, neither he nor Dr. Carey had ever seen; or, as the assertion was subsequently modified, that he did not recollect it was ever sent to them.

A variety of remarks having been made respecting the Trust Deeds, and the alteration effected by the Explanatory Declaration, 'the Form of Agreement' of 1805 was adverted to, which the Committee had ever regarded as the basis of the Serampore Union. Mr. Fuller, they knew, had considered it of so much importance that, not content with

* See p. 52 of this letter.

inserting it in the Periodical Accounts*, he had printed several thousands as a separate pamphlet, and the conductors of other Missionary Societies had quoted and copied it in terms of the highest commendation.† When, therefore, Dr. Marshman told the Committee that this Form of Agreement, signed by all the nine Missionaries then at Serampore, did not continue in force many months, that 'they had never acted upon it for a year, for they found it altogether impracticable,' the expressions of surprise were strong and universal. It did appear strange that a fact like this should never have been stated before; and that for twenty-one years the Committee and others should have been permitted to imagine that the document in question was 'the law of the house,' when it had scarcely ever had any authoritative existence.

After several members of the Committee had expressed their sentiments on this subject, and the friend who accompanied Dr. Marshman‡ had explained at some length his views of the Form of Agreement, the expressions occur, to which, I presume, Dr. Marshman refers in page 8; and to avoid any suspicion of unfairness I give the words as they stand.

Dr. Marshman.—In order to make common stock, all must have been common. If we had made common stock with the Committee, they must have thrown in all theirs. It is not for any one of them to say, I will take care of my own and then I will have yours, whether you have made common stock with us or not; but shew you have made common stock with us; if so, you must give me the same right over yours as I give you over mine: this does not require a word to shew it. No one can suppose we meant to say, we will account the clothes upon our backs to belong to a certain number of men 15,000 miles from us. We never thought that—we thought they all belonged to God, as we ourselves did, and we think so still; but if you will shew me a man who has a revelation from heaven to take all which belongs to God, just as the superior of the Jesuits took any thing for God, that will settle the matter. I am accountable to God and to my own conscience. I do not give any man a right over it, otherwise it would come precisely to that; even if we had said that we had been so generous as to do it, I am sure you would be too generous to accept such a thing. We have never engaged in private trade, we have always united together, and have each of us adhered as strictly to the law about making common stock, as you would be conscientious in touching that which belongs to government. And at this hour, after

* Vol. iii. p. 180. † See Dr. Brown's History of Missions, vol. ii. p. 166.

‡ Rev Thomas Roberts of Bristol,

the profits of Dr. Carey's salary, and my income, and Mrs. Marshman's, from the school, are placed in a common stock, I myself no more touch it than you would touch the treasury, nor does Dr. Carey; but if it is inquired, does it belong to any one but ourselves, I say no, that was never intended. Another man is as much bound to devote himself to the Redeemer as I am. Here are thirty of us, let us all make common stock, but do not say, that is common stock which places my property at your disposal and not yours at mine.

'*Mr. Gutteridge.*—We have never proposed to make it ours; you are contending against that which was never urged.

'*Dr. Marshman.*—We have never proposed to make common stock with you; we have made it with ourselves to this hour. At the time this was made we had nothing, we were merely fed from hand to mouth; and after we had been seventeen years together we do not possess all the money we carried out from England with us. Three individuals were voluntarily associating together; none of us possessed 1000*l.*; none of us possessed what we have had in an half year; there was a partnership which never existed but between us three—it could not be extended to ten. If a man wants bread and butter for his child he must not have to go and ask his neighbour.

'*Mr. Gutteridge.*—We never desired any thing of the kind. That which we contended for has been very much misrepresented. I am glad we have had this explanation. I do not see it necessary to carry it any further.'

In the discussions which followed respecting the mode in which the premises were secured, I find nothing which bears the least resemblance to the language ascribed to himself by Dr. Marshman (Statement, p. 9). The discrepancy between the original deeds and the explanatory declaration, was explained to him, and he acknowledged that he had never seen it before in that point of light; adding, that if he lived to return to Serampore, he would exercise his right as a donor, and see the trust vested in the eleven Trustees of the College. This plan, it was observed, was impracticable, because it would interfere with the provisions of the original deeds; which surely there was no wish to do. 'Not the least,' rejoined Dr. Marshman, 'we would not do it for the world.' 'I believe that,' was the reply, 'I only wished to call the attention of Dr. Marshman to the point on which the Committee thought they had reason to complain, and which Mr. John Marshman felt in the year 1822, when he was here, and engaged that the deed should be put in a different form.'

Having thus epitomized that portion of the proceedings at this meeting which, as it appeared to me, was most incorrectly stated by Dr. Marshman, I will not exhaust the reader's patience by any further details. He will have per-

ceived that Dr. Marshman, by the avowal that the Form of Agreement was almost from the beginning entirely nugatory, had thrown considerable light on the causes of the misunderstanding which had so long existed; and that by renewing the assurance that the premises at Serampore should, on his return, be secured, conformably to the original design, he had ratified the previous engagement made by Mr. John Marshman. Hence the Committee could, with the strictest propriety, unite in the resolution by which the business of that meeting was closed; and they trusted that by assigning one-tenth of their receipts for general purposes, for the support of the Serampore Stations, according to the request of Dr. Marshman, they had met the wishes of the elder Missionaries, and obviated the danger of any future collision.*

Something must be added respecting the last meeting between the Committee and Dr. Marshman, in March, 1827; and though I have not the same means of recalling the precise expressions used as in the former case, I shall be fully borne out by the recollection of many who were present, when I say that the manner in which it is described in the Statement and its Preface, is by no means just or candid.

It must be recollected that the Committee did not assemble under encouraging anticipations. A few months only had elapsed since, as they conceived, the question of financial aid to Serampore had been finally arranged, by their acceding to Dr. Marshman's own request; and yet, in the short interval, two new propositions had emanated from the same quarter, each, in effect, an advance on the preceding. It had been thought necessary to invite a larger number of the Committee than usual to attend; and as many of these brethren, by reason of their distance, were but imperfectly acquainted with the various bearings of the question, it was highly probable that much time would be occupied in the discussion of points to which those, to whom they were familiar, had no inclination to revert. In addi-

* In pages 11, 13, 15, of the Statement, the subject of the *amount* of the tenths is introduced, and the Secretary is truly reported to have said, that on the receipts of the year just closed, it would be £845. But Dr. Marshman, in each place, expresses himself as though it had been stated that this would be the *future* amount, a matter on which the Secretary, not having the gift of prophecy, could affirm nothing. The *balance sheet* of the year having been submitted to his inspection, though the *Report* was not then printed, I know not why the remark he quotes should have 'perfectly astonished' him. It may seem unnecessary to enter into such minute particulars, but, after all they have a decided influence on the *complexion* of a narrative, and consequently on the *impression* it conveys.

tion to this, the funds of the Society were so completely absorbed by its necessary expenditure, that it appeared scarcely practicable to carry into effect the resolution of August, appropriating the tenth to Serampore; much less to adopt any arrangement which would, in reality, still further impair its resources.

Amidst the anxiety which such considerations naturally produced, a letter arrived from Dr. Carey and Mr. John Marshman, dated November 1, 1826, informing the Committee that, in consequence of the inadequacy of their resources, they had placed upon the funds of the Society four of the Stations, which had hitherto been supported by Serampore. We had no suspicion that this letter, which afforded, of course, our only clue to the sentiments of the writers, was written under the feelings which have since been avowed;* but hailed it with grateful joy, as pointing out the course by which impending difficulties might be averted, and our Missionary operations brought into a regular system. With these impressions, and no other, were the resolutions prepared to be laid before the Committee, and tendered for the adoption of Dr. Marshman.

The Committee assembled on Thursday morning, March 15, and after some business of subordinate interest had been disposed of, and the minutes relating to the principal subject had been read, the chairman recommended that, in the first place, Dr. Marshman should state his views and wishes; then, that the members of the Committee should ask for any explanations or information that may assist them in forming their judgment—and that, subsequently, the Doctor would be requested to retire while the Committee deliberated among themselves on the course they should adopt. I presume no one will call in question the propriety of the last part of the proposed arrangement; and have never ceased to regret that Dr. Marshman should have declined a compliance with it: thereby rendering it indispensable for each member of the Committee to express his opinions, while he was present, or suppress the utterance of them altogether.

Dr. Marshman wished the paper, entitled ‘A Confidential Statement,’ which he had previously transmitted to each member of the Committee, might be read. In it he had specified the sum of £2400 per annum, as requisite for the Missionary operations at Serampore, and relinquishing the idea of any definite proportion of the Society’s funds, desired

* Statement, p. 28.

to know from the Committee what sum they would engage to remit annually, leaving him at liberty to supply the deficiency by bringing before the public a distinct claim for the remainder.

The 'Confidential Statement' having been read, it was followed by the introduction of the letter from Serampore previously mentioned. Of this letter, Dr. Marshman expressed his disapprobation; his Statement, he said, was to be considered as the proposal of the Serampore Missionaries, adding that the letters he had forwarded to his colleagues would alter their minds on the subject.

After this introduction, several members of the Committee (some of whom had never before seen Dr. Marshman) proposed a number of inquiries respecting the College, and many other points, bearing, more or less, upon the general subject. In this stage of the business, it was natural that all present, interested as they were in the concerns of the Society, should occasionally take a part: the questions were of course regulated by the varying degrees of information possessed by those who proposed them; and if, now and then, they followed each other somewhat too rapidly, it must be recollected that a large proportion of the querists had soon to return to the country, and felt that this was the only opportunity they were ever likely to have of receiving from Dr. Marshman the explanations desired.*

After much time had been occupied in these interrogations and the replies by Dr. Marshman, it was suggested by one of our country brethren, (not on the Central Committee), that the Society should take upon itself to provide for the whole of the stations connected with Serampore, by which the friends there would be relieved and their union with the Society at home perpetuated. This proposal appearing to meet with general and hearty concurrence, the Secretary produced the two Resolutions,† of the same tenor, which

* I cannot wonder that a much respected friend is charged with *sneering*. (Pref. xxii.) when I remember that Dr. Ryland was once accused in the same way. His defence was highly characteristic. 'I could as easily be convinced that I have had more wives than a Koolenu Brahman!'

† I. That the Committee, actuated by the desire they have always felt to aid the Missionary efforts of their Serampore brethren to the utmost of their power, and which led them to make a proposal to the same effect in September, 1823, agree to take upon themselves the stations specified, together with the remaining three, in respect of which expense is incurred by their Serampore brethren, viz. Jessore, Dacca, and the Arracan country; trusting that by this arrangement all cause of future differences will be removed; and that the liberality and exertions of the friends of the Society will furnish

he had previously prepared, and these, having been seconded by our esteemed friend Mr. Gutteridge, were carried, *nemine contradicente*; after which, it having been intimated that Dr. Marshman would require some time for consideration, the Committee adjourned till the next day.

On the following morning it was soon discovered that our hopes of an adjustment on the basis of the Resolutions were not to be fulfilled. After a variety of observations from the two brethren who were in the special confidence of Dr. Marshman, he expressed himself on the subject with considerable warmth. He affirmed, that to consent to such an arrangement would be 'totally and entirely destructive of the cause of God in India,' with other expressions of a similar import; adding, in reference to a remark which had been made on the tendency of the proposed plan to promote harmony between the senior and junior Missionaries, that this was aiming to heal a wound which did not exist—that we were not to suppose there was any disagreement between them and the Calcutta brethren. The Committee were not a little surprised to hear that a plan, which had been already acted upon in part by Dr. Carey and Mr. John Marshman, should be considered fraught with such ruinous consequences; and Dr. Marshman was requested to explain the grounds on which he took such a view of it, with the assurance that, were these deemed conclusive, the measure should be instantly abandoned. The reasons he assigned were two—first, that the distance between Serampore and Calcutta was such as not to allow of a Committee to meet so often as the case would require—and, secondly, that the ideas entertained by the Missionaries at these two Stations, on the subjects which would come under discussion, differed so widely, as to render their combination most undesirable. This explanation having been given, the Chairman requested each member of the Committee present to state his opinion, *seriatim*, after which, it was

'Resolved *nemine contradicente*, that the Committee have received, with unfeigned regret, the communication from Dr. Marshman (which

them with the means of fulfilling these additional and important engagements.

II. That for the management of the out Stations, now to be connected with the Society, the whole of our Missionary brethren in Calcutta, Serampore, and other Stations in Bengal, be requested to act as a Corresponding Committee; and that it would highly gratify this Committee for Dr. Carey to act as President of such Corresponding Committee.

he will make in writing) of his declining their propositions : and beg to assure him that no other motive than an anxious desire to perpetuate union between the Serampore brethren and themselves dictated those resolutions.*

As it appeared to the Committee that Dr. Marshman's principal objection to the Resolutions arose from the proposal to associate the Calcutta Missionaries with those at

* During the proceedings, several letters were read from distant members of the Committee, expressing their opinions on the claim of one-sixth advanced by Dr. Marshman, to which they were uniformly adverse. We insert, by permission of the writer, the communication received from the Rev. Robert Hall of Bristol.

' To the Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society, convened in London, on the 15th instant.

Bristol, March 12, 1827.

' GENTLEMEN,

' It is with much diffidence that I presume to address you on the present occasion, nor am I certain whether I am perfectly in order in so doing; but conceiving this to be a crisis in the Mission, and not being able to be present at the meeting, I could not satisfy myself without communicating the result of my reflections on the important business which has called you together.

' Dr. Marshman, it seems, as the representative of the brethren at Serampore, has instituted a demand of one-sixth of all the money collected or subscribed towards the Society, to be paid annually in aid of the Missionary operations going on there. It must strike every one as strange that this demand should almost immediately follow a preceding one which was acceded to, which he then professed to consider as perfectly satisfactory, and as putting a final termination to all dispute or discussion on the subject of pecuniary claims—that, notwithstanding this, he should now bring forward a fresh requisition of one-sixth of the same amount, accompanied, as I am informed, by an intimation, that it is possible this may not be his ultimatum. This proceeding has all the appearance of a tentative process, designed to ascertain how far our anxiety to avoid a breach will prompt us to submit to his encroachments. What security have we against future requisitions if we yield to the present? What reason to suppose our ready compliance in this instance will not encourage him to embrace an early opportunity of making further demands? It has all the appearance of the commencement of a series of unfounded pretensions and endless exactions.

' That a set of men, in the character of Missionaries, after disclaiming the authority of the Society which sent them out, and asserting an entire independence—after claiming an absolute control (whether rightfully or not) over a large property which that Society had always considered as its own, should demand an annual payment from those from whom they had severed themselves, and thus attempt to make their constituents their tributaries, is a proceeding scarcely paralleled in the history of human affairs.

' I am utterly at a loss to understand on what principle the Serampore brethren, in the position in which they have placed themselves, have any claim whatever on the funds of the Society whose authority they have renounced, after appropriating to themselves the management of an extensive revenue, in the disposal of which they will not brook the smallest interference or control. Without reverting to former grounds of controversy, it will surely be admitted that the independence we have, for the sake of peace, conceded to them, is reciprocal—that our right to it is not less than theirs—

Serampore in the management, it was suggested, on the part of the Committee, that the direction might be left in the hands of Drs. Carey and Marshman, during their lives, it

and that we are consequently at liberty to dispose of our income in the way which we conceive most conducive to the purposes of our institution.

‘It may be very proper, under certain circumstances, for us to aid the brethren at Serampore by occasional donations, regulated by the state of our funds, and the attention necessary to other objects; but this is essentially different from absolutely engaging to pay an annual sum, which would, in my humble opinion, be equally inconsistent with the interests and the honour of this Society. As our brethren of Serampore have chiefly exerted themselves in translations, and are confessedly in possession of great pecuniary resources, there seems no imperious necessity for regularly diverting those funds to their aid, which are unequal to the demand which Bengal alone would create, were our Mission (a most desirable event) concentrated within that province. Calcutta, to say nothing of other stations, cries aloud for more labourers, but cries in vain.

‘It has been said that we are indebted for our success to the celebrity attached to the names of Carey, Marshman, and Ward, and that but for the unbounded confidence of the religious public in these men, our funds would never have been realized. Supposing this to be the case, to take advantage of such a circumstance in order to bring the Society into subjection, would not be to make a very generous use of their influence. But I believe it is a mistake; it is my firm conviction that the Baptist Mission, like other kindred institutions, rests on the basis of its own merits, and that it will not fail to secure the confidence of the public, in proportion to the purity of its motives, the wisdom of its counsels, and the utility of its objects. If it cannot sustain the ordeal of public opinion on these principles, let it sink, rather than owe its support to the illusion of a name.

‘To contemplate the possibility of being compelled to an open rupture with our brethren of Serampore is unquestionably painful; it is their knowledge alone of our extreme reluctance to hazard that consequence which emboldens them to advance these exorbitant claims. If we can avoid it by a consistent and dignified mode of procedure, let it be avoided; but if peace can only be purchased by an ignominious surrender of our rights as a Society, by a tame submission to unreasonable demands, and by subjecting it to a sort of feudal dependance, in all time to come, on persons we know not whom—whose characters we cannot ascertain, and whose actions we cannot control, the purchase is, in my humble opinion, too dear. The treatment of the Serampore brethren has not been such that we need shrink from its most ample exposure to the public; nor have we any other censure to fear on that head, except it be for lavishing upon them a too over-weening confidence. We have no such secrets to conceal that it should cost us a large annual payment to secure their suppression.

‘Of the three brethren, with whom we were lately in treaty, one is already gone into eternity, and the remaining two are advancing to that period of life which ought to make us pause ere we enter into engagements, which will give to persons of whom we know little or nothing a permanent right of interference with our funds.

‘The crisis is most solemn, and a hasty compliance with the present requisition may, when it is too late, make matter for bitter and unavailing repentance. That you may be indulged on this, and on every other occasion, with the wisdom which is from above, is the sincere prayer of

‘Gentlemen,

‘Your obedient humble servant,

‘ROBERT HALL.

being left to the Society to nominate their successors: and such was the anxiety to prevent a separation, that at the close of the day it was unanimously resolved to appoint a Subcommittee of seven, with the Chairman and Secretary, to confer with Dr. Marshman the next morning, 'with a view to devise some plan, if possible, which may preserve perfect union and co-operation between the Serampore friends and the Committee.'

The meeting took place accordingly on the morning of the 17th; when, after some hours had been occupied in answering various inquiries, proposed on the part of Dr. Marshman, in relation to subjects not immediately connected with the business of the meeting, Dr. Marshman stated, that he found it impossible to accede to the transfer of the Stations as proposed in the first Resolution of the Committee; and that his confidential instructions from Serampore prevented it. This result having been communicated to the General Committee on the following Monday (19th), they were constrained to admit the painful conviction that the union between the Society and the Serampore brethren could no longer be maintained, and a few members were deputed to draw up for public information a statement of the fact: which, after various modifications, was agreed to by the Committee as inserted in the *Missionary Herald* for April.

On the reasons which compelled the Committee reluctantly to yield to the conviction that a separation was unavoidable, it is unnecessary to dwell. They have been stated in the Society's Report, and I am not aware that their validity has been questioned. I would, however, remark that in the Resolutions as at first tendered for Dr. Marshman's acceptance, it was fully understood that Messrs. Mack and Swan would be included in the Committee of Management, and that when it was afterwards proposed to modify the second of these Resolutions, their names were not mentioned in connexion with those of Drs. Carey and Marshman, simply out of delicacy to the paternal feelings of the latter. It was deemed an important principle, that none but *Missionaries* (Messrs. Mack and Swan were always viewed as such) should have the control and direction of Missionary Stations, and on this ground *only*, as it was expressly stated to Dr. Marshman at the time, was any objection made to his son. I am happy to record my conviction, that, to the general cause of Hindoo improvement, Mr. John Marshman has long rendered important service; but the respect justly due to him on this

account must not, for a moment, interfere with the principle to which I have alluded.

I may add, that any man, who should experience only a tenth part of the embarrassments which have grown out of the loose state of accounts between the Committee and Serampore in former years, would see abundant reason for the anxiety of the former to have all matters of this kind exactly arranged, without supposing it was intended to question the integrity of the Missionaries.

Such, according to the best of my recollection, aided by *memoranda* made at the time, is an impartial statement of this important meeting. On its general character I feel it somewhat indelicate to speak, having myself been called to take no inconsiderable share in the proceedings: but a regard to truth compels me to aver that I am utterly unable to specify what individuals compose 'the number' who, according to Mr. Foster, 'held themselves absolved from all proprieties of respectful consideration, or even decorous forbearance.' I am quite conscious that, in my own mind, the prevalent feelings were those of overwhelming anxiety and deep distress; and I am persuaded these feelings were shared by many others. That expressions were occasionally employed, which the more deliberate judgment of the speaker would not have approved, I freely admit. In one instance, I remember, Dr. Marshman objected to a particular phrase, and an apology was immediately tendered. But I much question whether any body of men ever assembled in equal numbers, under similar circumstances, with feelings so variously exercised, and for so long a time, exhibiting less of irritation or unkind feeling than in this instance. Nor must it be forgotten that a warmth of expression, whenever it did occur, was elicited, in the apprehension of the party using it, by the language or conduct of Dr. Marshman himself. On *his* share in the proceedings, I will only say, that if 'nothing is further from the truth than that he did practise, or wished or needed to practise, any evasion whatever,'* it is most sincerely to be regretted, that a contrary impression should be so deeply rivetted on the minds of a large majority of those who were present.

BUT, after all, it may be said, the main charge against the Committee remains unnoticed. Has it not been their 'gene-

* Statement, page 28.

ral aim to crush an independence which will not acquiesce in the claims of domination asserted by' them? Have they not refused to trust any money whatever to the fidelity of men who had been exhausting their lives in almost unparalleled exertions; or if granting any, taking care to accompany the donation by intimations of an unamicable spirit? In a word, have they not attempted to divest these excellent men of the rights confessedly belonging to all human beings, but those who are literally slaves?*

Such, it is granted, is in substance the accusation which has been frequently reiterated against the Committee in the copious correspondence of Dr. Marshman and his colleagues, and which is now condensed in the forcible language of Mr. Foster. To me, indeed, there has long appeared 'something quite peculiar, and as if partaking of infatuation, in this affair.' 'It may stand on record as a curious instance of intellectual obliquity,' that a set of Christian men should persist, year after year, in renewing criminations which have been shewn to be utterly unfounded, in imputing motives which have been solemnly and deliberately disavowed, and that by persons whom the accusers themselves would admit to be worthy of credit. Especially have I wondered that no effect has ever been produced by the earnest and moving appeals of my late venerable colleague, who felt most acutely the injustice of the conduct to which I refer. One quotation from his correspondence may serve as a specimen—many to the same import might be added.

'If I were to die to-morrow, or to-night, I must die protesting that all the rapacity ascribed to the Committee exists only in Dr. Marshman's imagination. They have again and again most justly disclaimed it, but no explanations are of any avail; they are not *read* by *him*, and his inuendoes are more easily believed by you, dear brother, than all our protestations. Well, I entered yesterday on my seventieth year; perhaps I shall be hid in the grave ere I see the ruin of the Society, at which he appears to aim, and in which if he succeeds, his own ruin will soon be the consequence, though his foundation now seems to stand so strong.'†

Were I required to state the case in the most compendious way, it might be presented in something like a syllogistic form, as follows:—

* Preface, Pages xli. xviii. xxxiii.

† Dr. Ryland to Dr. Carey, January 29, 1822.

Dr. Marshman assured the Society* that they possessed premises and other property in India, to the value of 20,000 l.

Mr. Ward, for himself and colleagues,† expressed great anxiety for the due security of ‘this immense property.’

The Committee, in reply, informed the brethren at Serampore of the plan which had been professionally recommended for securing that part of the property which consisted in the premises.

Therefore, The Committee have been endeavouring to reduce the Serampore Missionaries to the condition of West India slaves, or something beneath it.‡

Should any reader suspect that, in thus putting the case, I am endeavouring to impose on his credulity, I must intreat his attention to the following recital, and the documents by which it is accompanied; embracing, indeed, details not immediately bearing on the precise question just stated, but necessary to the full development of the subject.

FROM the formation of the Baptist Missionary Society, in Oct. 1792, till the month of May, 1815, its affairs were managed, in a very principal degree, by my late invaluable friend, the Rev. Andrew Fuller, who sustained during that long period the office of Secretary; and whose qualifications for the post, were, confessedly, of the very highest order. With him were associated, in most affectionate and confidential intercourse, the Rev. John Sutcliff of Olney, and Dr. Ryland of Bristol. These excellent men were guided by the same principles, and equally attached to the sacred cause, although, from the studious and retiring disposition of the one, and the distance, and many important avocations of the other, they could render, comparatively speaking, but little active aid. Mr. Sutcliff died in June, 1814, and Mr. Fuller, on May the 7th, in the following year. A few days after the decease of the latter a meeting of the Society was held at Luton, when Dr. Ryland was requested to assume the office of Secretary, *pro tempore*, an appointment which was unanimously confirmed at the Annual Meeting, convened at Northampton in the fol-

* Letter to Dr. Ryland, May 8, 1812.

+ Letter to Mr. Burls and Dr. Ryland, March 11, 1816.

‡ Preface, page xxxiii.

lowing October, at which time also the Rev. James Hinton, of Oxford, was, with equal unanimity, appointed Joint Secretary. Much disadvantage, however, was experienced from the very limited acquaintance possessed by the newly chosen Secretaries, or any of the Committee, with the details of the Society's history, or the circumstances in which it stood. Among other subjects, inquiries were made respecting the nature and extent of the property in India, which was understood to belong to the Society; but no one could give any accurate information on this point, nor was it known that such information existed, in any shape, in this country.*

A few months afterwards, this subject was brought distinctly and forcibly before the notice of the Committee, by a letter dated Serampore, March 11, 1816; one copy of which was addressed to Dr. Ryland, and another to Mr. Burls, who had for many years rendered valuable services to the Society, by transacting business on its behalf in London. A note, in his copy, from the pen of Mr. Ward, states some additional particulars respecting this document. 'I have been very anxious,' says he, 'respecting a comfortable settlement of this Station, this business, and immense property; and the plan is the result of my thoughts. I have sent it to my brethren, Carey and Marshman, and we are to have a solemn discussion and revision, and it will then be sent to the Society.' The letter itself follows:—

'W. Carey, Joshua Marshman, and W. Ward, aware of the uncertainty of life, and at the same time of the great importance and necessity of leaving their joint opinion of the best way of providing for the future carrying on of the Mission Station at Serampore, have agreed in the following declaration, the principles of which they think are of the last importance for the preservation to the cause of God, of those establishments which have been formed at Serampore.

'Three things seem to be necessary to perpetuate in this Station the great facilities already acquired to the Evangelizing of India.—

'Talents and energy, union, and an unwavering attachment to the plan of devoting the whole proceeds of the united labours of the family to the cause of God; and the great things to be dreaded are want of talents and energy, disunion, and selfishness.

* 'You always talked of the premises at Serampore as belonging to the Society. This was not my fault. I have observed that it was no unnatural question, How are they secured to the Society? The answer was, We do not know; and the reply was as natural, Then we ought to know.' Dr. Ryland to Dr. Marshman, August 21, 1822.

‘ To secure the requisite means of perpetuating an institution, which a gracious Providence has so signally prospered ; and to avoid those evils with which such an institution is at all times threatened by human infirmity, it appears to us, that the following ought to form the integral rules of the institution.

‘ There shall always be at least three individuals, members of the church at Serampore, who shall have separate votes in the management of all public business, and in the disbursement of the public money.

‘ That those persons cannot be of the same family, but that one at least shall be wholly unconnected with the other two, both by blood and marriage ; and that if it should happen (two of the three being allied by blood or marriage,) that the other member not so allied should die, the other two shall be obliged to elect another unallied person from the Society’s Missionaries in the course of one year ; in failure of doing which, the Society itself shall supply the deficiency.

‘ That in the first instance each individual elected into the Station shall be unanimously chosen by the members already composing the Serampore Mission Family Station, but that such person cannot act nor vote till the choice has been ratified at home by the Society.

‘ That all the *monies* resulting from the entire labours of the persons composing the said Family Station, after each person’s allotted salary has been paid, are devoted to the cause of God under the exclusive management of the body united as the Serampore Mission Family Station.

‘ That the produce of each person’s labour is, in no degree, nor in any instance, at his own disposal to give little, or more ; but it is of the *very essence of this union*, that the whole amount of such produce forms a common stock, the disbursement of which is to be applied to the cause of God alone, and to objects similar to those embraced by the Society at home, and that no disbursement is legal unless it be voted either impliedly, or specially, by the majority.

‘ That the property in *lands, or moveables, already acquired, or which may hereafter be acquired*, shall be held by the Serampore Mission Family Station, as Trustees to the Society ; that it can never become private property, nor ever be sold, or alienated from the Society, except by their own previous consent : if ever a sale should take place, it shall be subject to the final ratification of the Society, and not be valid till such ratification has been obtained ; and that a legal deed shall, as soon as possible, be executed, holding this property of the Society as their trustees ; and that it shall be transmitted to the Society to be deposited among their papers.

‘ That the orphans of our deceased brethren now at Serampore, shall, with the approbation of the Society, continue there, and receive from the produce of our labours a maintenance and education ; but that in all future cases of this nature, the will of the Society shall be known before the place of their final abode be fixed upon.

‘ That the widows or orphans of the persons, who, by their labours,

have formed the Station at Serampore, or who shall hereafter be elected there, shall be allowed from the common stock—for each widow, rupees per annum, and for each orphan rupees per annum.

‘ All private trade is prohibited.

‘ All fees, presents, or legacies, which appear to arise out of the Missionary, or ministerial character, and given to an individual not as a matter of private friendship, shall go to the public stock.

‘ That the accounts of every department of the Station shall be regularly read at the appointed times, and a summary published annually in the Circular Letter, and also sent to the Society.

‘ That no individual Missionary now in India, nor any one in future coming from the Society, can have any authority in this Station; but we hope that all our brethren will ever meet at Serampore with that hospitality, which it becomes brethren to show to those engaged in the same cause, and sent forth by the same Society.

‘ We hope that the family will always derive their supplies from one common table, as that which under God will be a grand means of preserving the union, and that public spirit by which the whole produce of its labours is devoted to the cause of God. This is that in our Mission upon which the glory rests; this gone, Ichabod may be inscribed on all that will remain.

‘ That these ideas shall be laid before the Society for their opinion; and if approved, for their ratification as soon as possible.’

This important letter was laid before the Committee at the Annual Meeting of the Society, held in Birmingham, October, 1816, on which it was resolved ‘ that the Secretaries be empowered to call a Special Meeting of the General Committee as soon as they shall have obtained the corrected plan which the brethren in India have promised to send respecting the affair of the trust deed of the property at Serampore.’

At this Meeting a Sub-committee* had been appointed for the more convenient transaction of business, who assembled, for the first time, at Oxford, on December 31, 1816, and the following day. In reading the minutes of the previous Meeting, that which has been just quoted occurred in its order; but as the corrected plan had not arrived from Serampore, no further step could be taken; the Committee could not even be summoned to discuss the subject til

* Consisting of the Rev. Robert Hall, then of Leicester; Jarman of Nottingham; Birt of Birmingham; Dyer of Reading; Saffery of Salisbury; Coles of Bourton; Kinghorn of Norwich; Steadman of Bradford, with W. Burls, Esq. of London, and the Secretaries.

that document was received. As it happened, however, that Mr. Thomas, an eminent solicitor from Calcutta, was at that time in London, Mr. Burls had asked his opinion on the business, and now stated to the Sub-committee that Mr. Thomas had recommended a Deed Tripartite, vesting the premises in Trustees, part in Asia, and part in Europe. It was remarked by one of the brethren present, that probably, as Serampore was a Danish Settlement, their laws might differ from our own, on which our friends Mr. Burls and Mr. Ivimey were requested to inquire 'How far the tenure and conveyance of fixed property in India is affected by its being situated in the Danish territory;' after which, it being considered that if any thing like the plan suggested by Mr. Thomas should be adopted by the Committee, some English Trustees would be requisite, the names of eight persons were mentioned 'to be suggested to the General Committee,' who might be requested to act in that capacity. It is material to remark that this was a '*suggestion*' merely; the Sub-committee had no power to decide on the plan itself, much less to appoint those who should carry it into effect.

In the course of this meeting, also, a letter was considered, from the three brethren at Serampore, dated April 2, 1816, advising the Society to take upon themselves the direction and support of the Missionaries sent out from Britain, and proposing to support, from their own funds, as long as they should possess the means, the native and Asiatic brethren who might be raised up there. Imperfectly acquainted as were the Committee with the previously existing arrangements, they were incapable of discerning all the bearings of these proposals: but it was enough that they were made by brethren on whose wisdom and attachment to themselves and to the cause they placed, as they had every reason to do, the fullest reliance. Hence the subjoined resolutions were passed,* under the impression (as I firmly believe) that, in

* '1. That we accede to the proposal of our brethren in India to take upon ourselves the direction and support of the Missionaries sent out from this country, or adopted by the Committee, subject to the regulations hereafter specified.

'2. That our brethren Carey, Marshman, and Ward, constitute a Corresponding Committee, for the purpose of assisting the Committee at home, in all cases where their advice may be requisite, yet so as to meet their own earnest wish, not to infringe on the personal independence of the Missionaries.

'3. That as cases may arise which will render decision requisite, before

adopting them, we were ratifying the arrangements proposed by our Serampore friends themselves.

It devolved upon Dr. Ryland, the senior Secretary, to transmit these Resolutions to India, which he did in a letter written, as I presume, after his return to Bristol. Of that letter no copy was ever taken; but my respect for the excellent writer forbids me to believe that it could contain any thing *official* respecting the Trusteeship, seeing the matter had never been before the Committee at all, for whose consideration it was expressly reserved. Whatever, therefore, on this subject, that letter contained, must have been written in the unsuspecting confidence of private friendship; and I am sorry that, by overlooking this obvious fact, Dr. Marshman should appear to cast an imputation on the memory of his ancient friend, which ought not to rest upon it for a moment.

For a period of a year and a half, that is, till June 1818, no further steps were taken by the Committee, in reference to Serampore, because the promised document from thence had not arrived. In that month, various public services on behalf of the Society were held in London, and a number of the Committee assembled there, including Dr. Ryland, and the writer of this account.* A few weeks before, each Member of the Sub-committee had received a copy of a very long printed letter, dated September 4, 1817, from the Missionaries at Serampore, which filled the minds of all with a degree of astonishment and concern not easy to describe.† This letter was occasioned by the proceedings of the Committee at Oxford, in October, 1816, which were regarded as indicating feelings and intentions on the part of

any communication can be received from this country, our brethren above-named be requested and empowered to act in such cases *ad interim*, according to the best of their discretion, reserving the final decision in all such cases to the Committee at home.

‘4. That we cheerfully accept the offer of our brethren who now constitute the Corresponding Committee, that they will undertake, on behalf of the Society, the direction of the native ministering brethren already under their care, including those who are supported by the liberality of private individuals in India or in Britain, fully agreeing with them that this shall be deemed merely an internal regulation, and that the Missions be always considered as one.’

* Elected Assistant Secretary on the resignation of Mr. Hinton at the Annual Meeting held at Oxford, in October, 1817.

† Although this memorable letter would form a pamphlet of itself, it should be inserted, had not Dr. Marshman transcribed a great part of it into his pages.

the brethren at home as remote from their real sentiments as the east is from the west. 'A degree of domination has been attempted towards us, that threatens all the enjoyments of private life, and the destruction of all our means of public usefulness'—'we are delivered over as sheep bound for the slaughter.' But I must not begin to quote. The question with the Committee really *was** 'Why all this emphasis, this reiteration, this expostulation, this alarm, this deprecation of we know not what distress and misfortune, this earnest resistance, in language alternately sorrowful and indignant?' Certainly, an indictment for high treason could scarcely have been more unexpected.

Our Serampore friends had, however, discerned 'the course by which alone the whole Mission could be saved from impending ruin,' and had adopted it without delay. This was to execute an Explanatory Declaration,† providing against the danger of forcible ejectment by expressing the 'will, design, meaning, and intention' of the subscribing parties (a minority of the Trustees then living), that no persons either in England or in India belonging to the Baptist Missionary Society should have the least right or title to the property or the administration of the said premises, unless lawfully appointed thereto by themselves.

In this letter, the 'Baptist Mission at Serampore,' was (I believe for the first time) spoken of as though it were a distinct body from the Society in England; and an application from Mr. W. Pearce, whom the Committee had sent out a little before, for permission to unite with the Serampore friends—they refunding the expense of his passage—left no doubt as to the meaning of the phrase.

After maturely considering these documents, the Committee unanimously agreed in the following letter.‡

'To the Serampore Brethren.

'London, June 26, 1818.

'Very dear Brethren,

'Being met here, as usual at this season of the year, we have had to consider, among other points, the application which Mr. W Pearce has made us for permission to join your Society.

* See Preface to Statement, p. xxxviii.

† Given at length in Appendix to Report of the Baptist Missionary Society for 1827, p. 32.

‡ Referred to in the Statement, pages 102, 103.

‘ This involves a question which we did not expect ever to have come before us, but as it has, we proceed to give you our sentiments with the utmost frankness; beseeching you, dear brethren, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, that you will not impute to us any hostile feeling—that you will put the most candid construction upon any thing we may say, and believe that we are actuated most powerfully by a regard to your welfare and happiness, as well as to the prosperity and honour of the Mission at large.

‘ Let us dispassionately review the state of the case.’ During the life time of dear brother Fuller, little was known about the internal state of the Mission. Under the divine blessing it had arisen to a great degree of prosperity, and it seemed to be universally taken for granted that all its concerns were managed in the best possible way. On his decease it followed as an inevitable consequence, that the direction became somewhat more extended—the responsibility, which had hitherto centered almost entirely in one individual, devolved on the whole Committee, and it was perceived that there were several points of importance, on which the public had a right to demand, and we ought to be prepared to furnish, a full and explicit statement.

‘ Among these points a principal one was, the mode of securing the premises and property at Serampore—and to this subject our attention was forcibly directed by your letter of March 11, 1816, addressed by Mr. Ward to Mr. Burls. This communication, containing the outlines of a plan for this very end, and arising from your anxious solicitude that no misappropriation of the premises in question should take place, was attentively considered at Birmingham in the October following; but as you gave us reason to expect a more digested plan would soon be forwarded, no resolutions were then passed, or any definite steps taken.

‘ At this meeting, however, it was agreed, with a view to facilitate the business of the Society, that the management of its concerns should be entrusted to a Sub-committee, who might assemble, without much inconvenience or expense, two or three times in the course of the year, and report their proceedings to the General Committee at the annual meeting. This Sub-committee first met at Oxford, January 1, 1817, and as no further communication from yourselves had then been received, the question was taken into consideration, as far as we were able to do so from the documents before us. Then it was that those Resolutions were passed, the spirit and tenor of which you appear to us, dear brethren, to have most unhappily misconceived.

‘ This we learn from your printed letter of September 26, 1817, addressed to the Sub-committee, and also from a letter from our highly esteemed brother Carey, to Dr. Ryland, written soon after.

‘ As far as we understand from these documents, your alarm and distress have been occasioned by two things: our requesting you to take upon you the direction of the native brethren, on *behalf of the Society*; and our nominating certain individuals, in this country, to be united with yourselves as Trustees, for the purpose of se-

curing the premises and property at Serampore, to the uses of the Society.

‘ These proposals appear instantly to have produced the most lively apprehensions, and to have satisfied you that the Committee had simultaneously imbibed a spirit of *domination* and *oppression*—had resolved to seize for themselves the direction of your counsels, the appropriation of your funds, the possession of your premises. And this idea predominated to such a degree, that, without requiring a single explanation, or addressing a single remonstrance—forgetting that we were still waiting for the matured plan of arrangement promised in March, 1816—you instantly decide on the course to be taken, and hasten to the adoption of a measure, whereby you become virtually separated from the Society, accompanying this step, at the same time, by assurances, reiterated again and again, that to this resolution you shall immoveably adhere. In conformity herewith, we perceive that, in your correspondence with Mr. Pearce, you speak of yourselves as a body, totally distinct from, and independent of us, in all respects, and have urged him to solicit permission to give up his connexion with us, and unite himself with you.

‘ Such then is the present state of affairs between us. The question respecting Mr. Pearce is, in truth, of itself a matter of little weight, but the point involved in it, namely, your separation from us, and forming yourselves into a distinct and independent Society, is a point of such paramount importance, and pregnant, in our apprehensions at least, with such serious consequences to us, to you, and to the cause of religion generally throughout the world, that we wish to pause, and in the most calm and serious manner we are able, and as in the sight of Him by whom actions are weighed, to give the deepest consideration we can to the subject.

‘ Hitherto we have been *one*, in the fair, open, legitimate sense of the term, not merely as Christian brethren, feeling the same concern for souls, and engaged in similar pursuits—you are thus one with every Missionary Society in existence—but as one Society, part in Asia and part in Europe, combined together in the most sacred and endearing of all ties for the prosecution of Missionary objects to the utmost possible extent. This union is a matter of public notoriety throughout the world, both to the friends and enemies of religion. If then it must be dissolved, the inquiry will naturally be urged from every quarter, ‘ *Why* is this? What has occasioned the disruption of that union which has subsisted so long?

‘ And here, dear brethren, you must permit us, in justice to ourselves, solemnly and distinctly to declare that, as far as we know our own hearts, we have in no degree been influenced by that spirit of *domination* which you have ascribed to us. We *love* you as brethren, and it is in our hearts to live and die with you; but we have never aimed or desired to exercise authority or control over you. Had such an imputation been cast upon us by an enemy, we should have regarded it as an artifice of Satan to disunite us, but we should cheerfully have referred him to yourselves for a refutation. Judge then, of our grief

and mortification at perceiving this charge brought against us *by you*, in the most direct and unqualified terms. Conscious that it does not attach to us, and perfectly assured that we should be acquitted by the public at large (should the question ever come before them, which on all accounts we hope it never will), we should feel no little perplexity in what manner to announce the fact of your secession from us.

‘ To us, we acknowledge, the union hitherto subsisting has been a source of so much pleasure, that it would be a considerable sacrifice to our personal feelings to resign the connexion. And though we do not discover a single expression of regret on this account in either of your letters, we cannot believe that you would be wholly strangers to the sentiment. Still there may be reasons which would justify such a step, and render necessary the sacrifice it would involve. Such however do not appear to exist in the case before us: on the contrary, we think we see cogent reasons against a separation. Bear with us if we add, these are principally suggested by a lively and affectionate regard for your reputation.

‘ You are aware that the *universal* impression is, that the premises at Serampore with all the property they contain, belong to the Society, and that you hold them *as a part of the Society*, and as Trustees for the whole. This idea has been so expressly and repeatedly recognized all along in our Periodical Accounts, that any attempts to invalidate it would diffuse universal *alarm* and *suspicion*. At the eventful period of the renewal of the East India Company’s charter, this statement was formally made to the government of this country, by brethren Fuller, Sutcliff, and others; they felt the force of the argument then employed, that ‘ British property was entitled to British protection.’ On this ground we were successful in urging that petitions might be poured in from all parts of the country, and this enabled Mr. Wilberforce to make an appeal to the House of Commons on your behalf, which had the effect of an electric shock among the members. Coupling these incontestable facts with the known jealousy of the East India Company, respecting the acquisition of property by any but their own servants, we are ready to conceive that the question of your continuance in India was determined by the view then presented of your disinterested conduct in connexion with our Society. Under the same impression the public came forward so generously to repair the loss occasioned by the fire, relying that the sum thus liberally contributed would be devoted to the specific purpose for which it was subscribed. Whatever *we* might think of the detailed statements of monies received and expended with which you have furnished us, and however satisfied *we* might be of your perfect disinterestedness in the whole affair, we feel persuaded that, were the Christian public in Great Britain to be told that ‘ *not a pice of property belonged to the Society at Serampore,*’ it would create universal consternation. Really, dear brethren, we have not the hardihood to make such a statement, and we intreat and implore you, by every serious and tender consideration, to weigh well the consequences ere you permit such an idea to go abroad through any other channel.

‘ Every one must be aware, that the interest of the Society in the property is merely *nominal*. But how, beloved brethren, could you possibly suppose that the recognition of that interest would be immediately followed by your expulsion from the premises, or by a forcible quartering upon you individuals whom you might not approve? You surely might have known, that a *majority* of Trustees are not competent to act in such a way; but that there must be a concurrence of *the whole*. In making the proposition we thought that we were acting in conformity with your own wishes, and that *your* object, as well as ours, was so to secure the premises, as that the important operations in which you are engaged may be carried on to the best advantage. In this, we fondly hoped to have proceeded hand and heart with you for years to come, as we have in years that are past. And so dear is this expectation to our hearts, that we shall not resign it till we are compelled to do so.

‘ We have been ready to fear at times, dear brethren, that *too much* has been said in commendation of your disinterested conduct in devoting your all to the cause of God. It is this, especially, which has fixed the eyes of the Christian world upon you. Other Missionaries may have been more successful in making converts from among the heathen: but *this* has ever been the pre-eminent jewel in *your* crown. But, after having been thus applauded for your generosity in resigning all claim to the property in question, except as a constituent part of the Society, *do you* actually intend to resume your gift, and dispose of it entirely according to your own pleasure?

‘ As yet we are altogether uncertain as to what you consider as included under the head of property to which the Society has no claim. Besides the premises and large property at Serampore, you speak of premises at Cutwa, at Digah, at Molenvliet, &c. These stand precisely in the same predicament, it should appear, as the premises at Serampore; but are we to understand that the Society has no right to any of them?

‘ Believe us, dear brethren, we do not make these remarks and inquiries from any wish to exercise control over you, or from any puerile desire to retain premises because of their real or imaginary value. As far as we ourselves are concerned, we have that confidence in your wisdom and faithfulness, that we would willingly resign every thing to your sole, distinct, and undivided management. But we are extremely anxious that you should be aware of the light in which such a procedure will be viewed in this country, in order to estimate for yourselves the consequences which probably may follow.

‘ Suppose, for the sake of illustration, that the premises and property had been lodged in the hands of an indifferent party, and you had retained the deeds, in which you were named and described as Trustees for the Society—could you, brethren, have cancelled those deeds, and replaced them by such an one as you have transmitted us a copy of, transferring all right of disposal to yourselves, and completely excluding the interference of that very Society for which you had previously declared yourselves Trustees? Would the holder con-

sider himself authorised to resign the premises to you on the authority of such a deed? Surely the idea is too absurd to require reflection. But then does the circumstance of your residence and occupation invest you with any rights beyond those which you would possess, if you were non-resident? *We* cannot perceive that it does; the gift has been made, nor can it be resumed, without the concurrence of the party to whom it has been made.

‘ You speak, brethren, of the *Baptist Mission at Serampore*: but when did this Society, as a distinct body, commence its operations? Where are its records? If you are Trustees on *its* behalf, to whom are you or your successors accountable? ’

‘ While we have relied on your candour, dear brethren, in making these observations, it is not for the sake of giving vent to feelings of disappointment, much less of irritation. Our principal object is, to induce you coolly and deliberately to review the matter among yourselves with whatever assistance may be afforded you by this letter, and some others which have preceded it (that from brother Dyer to Dr. Marshman we have seen and approve). If after all you still think it better we should in future constitute two distinct Societies, favour us with a candid and affectionate statement of your views, and we will concur with you in devising the best means of bringing about so important an alteration. If we must set an example of separation to all other Missionary Societies, let us do it in peace and love, and so, if possible, as not to inflict any lasting injury on that cause which is dear to us all.

‘ We say, *if possible*, because we have every reason to believe that a separation will most materially abridge our resources. It may probably occasion our extinction as a Society, which would be a painful thought, while all others, the Moravians excepted, are increasing in extent and influence year by year. This, however, will much depend on the ideas formed respecting the causes and propriety of the measure. Consider then, beloved brethren, that the cause is in your hands—remember that the eyes of all the Churches in the world are fixed upon you—realize the power, malice, and cunning of the prince of this world, who rejoices to create strife amongst the servants of Christ; divest your minds, we earnestly beseech you, of those unfavourable ideas which you have entertained of our sentiments—regard us still as of one heart and one mind with yourselves, and communicate to us, as early as possible, the result of your deliberations.

‘ Be assured we are still,

‘ Your very affectionate brethren.’

(Signed, I believe, by all present.)

The discussions on which the Committee had thus embarked were so important, and their anxiety to remove the prejudices entertained by their friends at Serampore so great, that, ere the meeting dissolved, it was agreed to request one of their number to undertake a voyage to Bengal, and attempt in person to convince the elder Missionaries of the

amicable views and feelings of the Committee. The individual nominated for the service did not decline it; but as it was material that he should be thoroughly acquainted with the views of the whole Committee, it was resolved to summon a general meeting to be held at Birmingham. Twenty-three members of the Committee* assembled there accordingly, August 19th and 20th, and the results were such as led the Committee to hope that an end would now be put to all further uneasiness; so that the idea of a voyage was given up.

A letter drawn up immediately after this meeting, with a view to allay the apprehensions which began to agitate some friends of the Society, by a plain statement of the facts of the case as they then stood, may be found in *Periodical Accounts*, vol. vi. page 240. The following Resolutions were passed by the Committee, and transmitted to Serampore a few days afterwards, with a letter, from which I transcribe all that relates to the subject.

‘ I. Resolved, That while, from the documents laid before us, the Society are restricted from interfering in ‘ the administration of the premises’ at Serampore, they are still responsible to the public, and engaged to watch over their ultimate destination.

‘ II. That while, under all the circumstances of the case, the Committee entirely refrain from objecting to the mode in which the premises are vested, they most earnestly and affectionately remind their Serampore brethren of the vast importance of so appointing and perpetuating the Trust, as shall at once meet the approbation of the public, and best promote “ the propagation of the Gospel in India, agreeably to the original design and institution of the Baptist Missionary Society.”

‘ III. Whereas our brethren at Serampore have greatly misapprehended our design in our proposal of uniting with them a number of Trustees in England; we assure them, that it never was our intention to expose them to any interruption in the management of the *family union*, or to the intrusion of any inmates without their consent; and whilst we applaud their noble generosity in contributing so great a portion of their income to the support of the Mission, we cannot object to their exclusive management of the proceeds of their own labours in the cause of God.

‘ IV. That we approve of the plan of providing for the perpetuating

* James Deakin, Esq. Chairman, Rev. Messrs. Anderson, Barclay, Birtsen, Blundell, Coles, Dyer, John Hall, Hogg, Ivimey, Morgan, Nicholls, Palmer, Ragsdell, Roberts, Ryland, Saffery, Steadman, Wilks, and Winterbotham, and Messrs. Hobson, King, and Potts.

the Missionary Union at Serampore, laid down in Mr. Ward's letter of March 11, 1816.

' V. That we are much gratified to find our brethren at Serampore so cordially approve the conduct of Mr. W. Pearce, and we wish him to remain at Serampore, and continue his operations in the printing-office, in conjunction with Mr. Ward; though, as we cannot consider our brethren as forming a distinct Society, we must decline the proposal they have made of repaying to our funds the expenses incurred in his outfit, and defer any final answer till we hear from our senior brethren in reply to our letter of June 26, 1818.'

' TO THE SERAMPORE BRETHREN.

' Reading, August 31, 1818.

' VERY DEAR BRETHREN,

' OUR last official letter was sent you immediately after the meeting of our Committee, in London, on June 25th and 26th last, and it expressed the unanimous opinion of the brethren then assembled on several points of importance, arising out of your last correspondence. This, we trust, you will have received long ere this reaches you, and that it will tend to remove those painful impressions under which some of your late letters have been written.

' Still, after the letter already mentioned had been read to, and approved by the Committee present, many apprehended that our sentiments and feelings may not be accurately conveyed to your minds thereby. Hence it was proposed, that some Member of the Committee, fully conversant with the subject, should be deputed to proceed to Calcutta, and have a personal conference with you, on all affairs connected with the Mission, and to whom, in conjunction with yourselves the Committee might intrust the task of making whatever arrangements may be requisite for the future management of its concerns.

' An individual was nominated for this purpose, to whom, on various accounts, the undertaking appeared very formidable, but who determined with himself, that, if his family and people did not decidedly object, and the Committee persevered in thinking that no other step could be taken, he would immediately prepare for the voyage.

' Previous, however, to a final decision, it was judged expedient to summon a general meeting of the Committee, many of whom, by reason of their distance, were but imperfectly acquainted with the state of our affairs. This meeting was held accordingly at Birmingham on the 19th and 20th instant, when we had a very considerable attendance, and the resolutions inclosed were passed with great unanimity. We enclose also a copy of the circular letter issued by the Sub-committee, as it will give you an idea of the kind of impressions we are labouring to counteract, and of the degree of information it has appeared necessary to give to the public at large. We hope this step will be beneficial, though we dare not be so sanguine as to indulge the expectation that no injury will accrue from unfavourable representations which have been widely circulated.

' Do not imagine for a moment, beloved brethren, that any of us

have made statements to your prejudice. Whatever surprise or grief some parts of your late correspondence have excited in our minds, we love you too well, we esteem you too highly, to be capable of this. But you will permit us to remind you, as of a general and important fact, that the communications between India and this country are now become much more extended than formerly. Hence, intelligence respecting missionaries is pouring in constantly, through a variety of channels, and an unguarded expression in Calcutta, for which neither of you is personally responsible, may have travelled through London, and thence over half the kingdom, and done much mischief, before we have the opportunity of explanation, contradiction, or disavowal.

‘ The papers inclosed will give you but a faint idea of the prayerful anxiety, or diligent application which distinguished our meeting at Birmingham. Each day’s meeting was commenced by solemn supplication. It was the privilege of the writer to be present at the first meeting (the second he was necessarily employed in arranging the subsequent business), and while our brethren Birt, Winterbotham, Nicholls, Palmer, Steadman, and Ryland, successively, poured out their hearts in prayer for you and for us—silent tears around the circle attesting how cordially all united in their petitions—he could not avoid the fruitless wish—Oh! that our Serampore brethren were present now! Surely the flame of holy love would burst forth with new vigour in their bosoms, and totally consume every remnant of distrust and suspicion, should any such be yet remaining there! But pardon this digression, and accept a few remarks on the resolutions now transmitted:—

‘ Resolution I. “ The Documents ” mentioned are the “ Explanatory Declaration ” annexed to the last printed letter, and that letter itself. It was a matter of considerable doubt with some whether it was your intention or not, to exclude us from any right of interference as to the ultimate destination of the premises. At length, however, it appeared the general opinion that you considered the Society as still retaining this right, though we were to have no voice in the nomination of Trustees, or in the internal management of the premises. Have we correctly interpreted your meaning? Supposing the premises should be alienated from Missionary purposes by any future Trustees or Occupiers, would the Society have any right to insist that they should be devoted to these purposes only?

‘ Resolution II. Imagine not that this implies any suspicion of your *integrity*, or that the Committee at home do not feel *relieved* in being exonerated from acting as Trustees for property at the distance of half the globe. But we cannot conceal our opinion, that the plan you have laid down is not the best that can be devised. Would it be unwise to include in the trust, some gentlemen in India, unconnected with the Society, and who never can have any personal interest in the property? We mean not to *dictate*, only to *suggest*.

‘ Resolutions III. & IV. Were proposed in substance by our venerable brother Ryland, and need no comment. You may possibly consider the last as now become obsolete.

‘ Resolution V. Whatever may promote the *efficiency* or the *comfort* of our dear brother Pearce, we are most anxious to do; nor could

we object to his uniting with you in any mode likely to promote the interests of the mission; but we cannot conceive that a disruption of our Serampore brethren from us will answer that end, and hope that you are now of the same opinion.'

I must now advert to another circumstance which occurred about this time, and to which Dr. Marshman has referred in his 'Statement,' page 103; how fairly the reader shall judge.

While the Secretaries were attending the meeting in London in June 1818, two of the most respectable gentlemen in the denomination, who had come to town for the purpose, called upon them to make some inquiries respecting Dr. Marshman. These friends were not unfrequently thrown into the society of military men and others connected with the East India Service, and they had been pained by hearing statements from individuals who described themselves as eye-witnesses of the splendour in which Dr. Marshman and his family lived. Dr. Ryland suggested, that, as the school conducted by Dr. and Mrs. Marshman contained pupils of highly respectable connexions, (including, I think, some native princes), it was highly probable that presents were occasionally made them, which might, in the eye of a transient visitor, create an erroneous impression as to their general style of living, &c. As, however, such an explanation was merely conjectural, it was thought best to procure more particular information without delay, and a letter requesting it was soon after addressed by myself to Dr. Marshman.* Still, as rumours of the same nature were found to prevail more and more, it was determined, when the Sub-committee met at Reading, to make similar inquiries of Dr. Carey. The sole intention of these inquiries, was to obtain such specific statements on the point alluded to, as would rescue the character of Dr. Marshman from the imputations cast upon it; but there was not the slightest reference to Mr. Ward in the whole letter. On what authority, then, does Dr. Marshman assert that Dr. Carey was requested 'to send home his opinion respecting his *two* colleagues with whom he had been united for nearly twenty years?'

* After briefly stating the facts, the following paragraph contains all that refers to the subject:—'I thought it but justice to you, my dear brother, to mention these things, not that I would intimate that we have any control over your domestic expenditure, but because I feel persuaded that you would wish to be made acquainted with any thing which may come to our ears, true or false, and which may be likely to be prejudicial to the cause of the Mission.'

Dr. Carey's reply* was in substance that, as the parents and guardians of the pupils educated at Serampore were frequently in the habit of calling there, it devolved upon Dr. Marshman and his family to provide them suitable entertainment—that for this purpose a sum of money had been voted out of the common stock, in the expenditure of which there had been no profusion, that he was aware of—and that all these articles were considered as public property, and convertible into their full value in cash. There was, however, one paragraph in connexion with this candid explanation which proved how imperfectly the design of the Committee in requesting it was misunderstood. 'The whole business of furniture, internal economy, &c. of the Serampore station must exclusively belong to ourselves, and I confess I think the question an unlovely one.'†

I must now revert to the narrative which has been partially interrupted for the sake of noticing a letter which Dr. Marshman tells us, 'so engrossed and affected the minds' of our Serampore friends, 'as to prevent their sending a formal reply,' or indeed any reply at all, 'to the letter (of June 1818) and the resolutions of the Committee.'

In a few months after the meeting at Birmingham, we were informed, that Mr. Ward was about to visit England, partly with a view to recruit his health, and partly to obtain pecuniary assistance towards the College which was then commencing at Serampore. The prospect of his coming was the more agreeable, as we fully anticipated that, by personal conference with him, we should quickly close these tedious discussions which it appeared so difficult to manage by correspondence. He arrived in May 1819; but it was soon discovered that he had left Serampore before our official letter of the preceding June had reached it, and that he was wholly unprepared to settle any matters of business with the Committee on the part of Serampore, constantly reminding us that he could only express his individual opinion on the subjects on which we might communicate. The anxiety he had expressed in 1816, respecting the arrangements at Serampore, appeared still to exist in all its force, and under

* The far greater part of this 'letter of four sheets' is taken up with matters relating to the Calcutta Missionaries, on which I purposely refrain from entering.

† Dr. Carey also referred to Mr. Ward, then coming to England, as able to give further details. The remark of the latter, on hearing what had been said on the subject, was, 'The people who talk thus must have learnt the Hindoo method of magnifying a drop into an ocean.'

its influence he had written to his brethren there, previous to his landing at Liverpool—of course, before he could have had the least intercourse with any one in England—recommending that some alterations should be made, and declaring that otherwise ‘he would never return to India to clothe himself with eternal infamy.’

While Mr. Ward was spending a few weeks at Cheltenham for the benefit of his health, I wrote to him on various matters which appeared to require mutual communication. That part of my letter, referring to the Serampore property, I subjoin.

‘ In adverting to the first point of consideration, *the mode in which the mission premises, and property, in India, are to be secured*, I would, for the sake of distinctness, divide them into four parts.

‘ 1. The premises which were purchased *in trust for the Society*, and of which you have sent us the title deeds. Whatever difficulty may have existed respecting these has been fully removed, I conceive, by the perspicuous and candid statement of Dr. Carey, who distinctly asserts, what indeed is obvious enough, that *the premises must belong to those for whom they are holden in trust*. Hence the “Explanatory Declaration” becomes invalid at once, even if it were not liable to strong objections on other grounds. This property, then, stands precisely as it did before that Declaration was passed; i. e. one part is held by yourselves as surviving Trustees—another by yourselves and Felix Carey; and the third, by yourselves, brethren Chamberlain, Moore, Rowe, and Felix Carey—all in trust for the Society in England. It certainly is desirable that these trusts should be consolidated, and that in such a way as distinctly to recognize the interest of the Society in the premises, as well as to guard, as far as possible, against any misapplication of them. What if the present Trustees (who of course must *all* concur) were to make over these premises to others, including themselves (or perhaps William Carey may be substituted for his brother Felix), and the Treasurers and Secretary of the Society, in England, for the time being? This hint is thrown out for your consideration, and from the wish that this question, which has excited so much interest, might be satisfactorily put to rest. If you approve it, a proposal to that effect, as a suggestion from yourself to the Society, would, I conceive, have a happy effect.

‘ 2. *As to the premises which have been purchased since*, and which, if I understand correctly, were bought in your names alone, without any reference to the Society, much need not be said. You will of course feel anxious that these shall be so settled as to redeem the solemn pledge given to the public, that all is devoted to the cause of God. Whether you may judge it expedient for the better securing this object, to associate any other individual, either in Europe or Asia, with yourselves in the trust, is a point for you to consider.

‘ 3. *The property at Serampore, independent of houses and lands*, is understood to be of very considerable value, and has always been

looked upon in Britain, and I suppose in India too, as public property. This should, therefore, in some form or other, be secured for missionary purposes.

‘ 4. Respecting *the premises in other parts of India*, at Cutwa, Digah, &c. we are, as a Society, very deficient in information. It is due to our own character with the public to ascertain what our property is, and take all suitable measures for its security.

‘ I think, my dear brother, you must be fully aware by this time, that there is a *real necessity* for coming to an explicit understanding on these subjects. It appears to me to be the more necessary, as, from what I remember of your proposals, sent from Liverpool, they were scarcely adapted to meet the real state of the case. When I consider the necessity that exists for an early settlement on these points, I feel increasing satisfaction in the thought of your coming among us, fully accredited to arrange with the Society all that refers to them.’

Mr. Ward writes in reply as follows, on the 30th of the same month.

‘ MY DEAR BROTHER,

‘ I am aware that my brethren have expressed their confidence in me in the way you mention, and I would gladly enter upon arrangements with the Committee to settle the property at Serampore, had I not already sent a plan to the brethren there, and were I not sure that whatever is adopted had better come at once from brethren Carey and Marshman themselves. I am sure they had no design of investing me with power to adjust claims respecting this property. I will however write to them immediately, and give them your ideas, and see whether the suggestions you have given can be acted upon; though my own idea is, that the premises must be occupied by the members of the Union at Serampore, free from the least danger of intrusion, or that they shall not be prevented using them for the purposes to which they have been appropriated; for a power to exist 15,000 miles off (and liable to be warped in exact proportion to the distance) capable of disturbing these occupants, is a most serious thing, and an object of well-founded dread, especially when it is considered that the persons in whom this power resides are an ever-changing body. This property therefore must be under the exclusive management of the members of this Union, and they must choose their own coadjutors. As an individual, I have no objection to the Society's having a *veto*; but I have the most serious objections to their possessing the power of choosing coadjutors. I will immediately write to the brethren at Serampore, and endeavour to persuade them to give the right of the *veto* to the Society in all future elections, and this, added to the plan I have sent, will give to the Society all it can desire.

‘ The property in India which has been bought with the money intrusted to the Society, may be secured with the greatest ease by making the present Trustees add to their own names those of the Com-

mittee, or the Treasurers and Secretaries of the Society, and I am sure the brethren at Serampore will cheerfully assist them in any plan they may wish to adopt on this subject. The Society have a house at Digah, or perhaps two thatched houses and out-offices; I have not seen them—the writings are at Serampore. They have also another house at Cutwa, but as the land is only rented and the house has been built, and not purchased, I suppose no writings exist. I think brother Chamberlain bought with the Society's money the bungalow in which he resides. The Mission property at Java should, I think, be also put in trust; we have no writings respecting it at Serampore. The house at Rangoon is the Society's, but I know not if any writings exist; I suppose not, as the house was built, and not purchased. It is now occupied by the American brethren. At Amboyna, the house is Jabez Carey's own property; at least, he considers it as such, as it was bought with the proceeds of his own labour. I know of no other property bought with the money intrusted to the Society; and what has been erected at the expense of Serampore consists of thatched buildings in Jessore, and a house at Moorshudubad, but none of them is worth a deed of trust; and indeed property is of so perishing a nature in India, where no land is concerned, that its value is very trifling. At Allahabad, Benares, Delhi, Malda, &c. houses are rented, and no missionary property exists.

In the autumn of 1819, the plan of the Society was revised, and its management intrusted to a central Committee, meeting monthly, or oftener, as occasion should require, in London: an arrangement by which the business of the Society could be transacted much more promptly and efficiently than before. One of the first duties of the Committee, thus newly modified, was to make themselves acquainted with the correspondence and documents relative to Serampore; and Mr. Ward, whose engagements on behalf of the College prevented his meeting with them in person, was requested to favour them with his sentiments on the plan best adapted for mutual satisfaction. His reply, dated Frome, December 27, contains the following paragraph; the rest of the letter refers to the College.

‘ To the Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society.

‘ MY DEAR BRETHREN,

‘ Be assured it is my anxious wish to draw nearer the bonds of union between Serampore and the Society, and nothing shall prevent my perseverance in this object.

‘ I wish Serampore to have as much independence as is necessary for its domestic comfort, and for the continuance of that disinterested ardour which dependance and uncertainty would infallibly destroy. I think all the property should be the Society's; that the exclusive management of it should be in the hands of the brethren united at

52 *Resolutions of the Committee, December 31, 1819.*

Serampore; that they should choose their own companions in labour; that the Society should have a *veto* on this choice, and that not less than three persons thus chosen should be united in the management at Serampore. I believe this plan unites comfort, safety and union.'

Aided by this communication from Mr. Ward, as well as by a diligent examination of many other papers bearing on the subject, the Sub-committee,* which had been nominated for the purpose of compressing our views in a series of Resolutions, presented the result of their labours, for the concurrence of the Committee, in the following shape:—

' London, December 31, 1819.

' The Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society, in England, anxiously desirous to put an end to all the misapprehensions which have existed between them and their much esteemed brethren at Serampore, for whom, on account of their services and labours in the cause of God, they have ever cherished the utmost veneration and the warmest affection, have devoted considerable time and labour to an examination of all the correspondence, and other documents, which could assist them in forming a judgment upon the points at issue; and after mature deliberation have agreed, with the most cordial unanimity, to the following Resolutions, as the result of their investigation.

' I. That it appears most evident to the Committee, from various passages in the Periodical Accounts,† from the phraseology adopted in the legal writings, attested copies of which have been sent us from Serampore, as well as from repeated declarations interspersed throughout the correspondence from our senior brethren, that the property at Serampore belongs clearly and unequivocally to the Society in England, and that it has hitherto been held by the resident Missionaries as Trustees for the Society. It is perfectly well known, that on this ground the late revered Secretary for the Mission, Mr. Fuller, rested his powerful appeals to the British public, and that on the same basis have been principally founded the several applications, made at various times, to the British legislature, to his Majesty's ministers, and to the East India Company. The Committee cannot, therefore, but feel that, were they to consent to the alienation of the property from the Society, they would violate the confidence reposed in them by the public, and be guilty of a dereliction of their duty.‡

* See their names, page 12.

† Vol. ii. pages 44, 186, 211, 227. vol. iii. 24. vol. iv. 101.

‡ I am very unwilling to recur again to this question, and had really supposed that the extracts from the Periodical Accounts, and Correspondence inserted in the Appendix to our Report for 1827, would have precluded the necessity of doing so; but, as both Mr. Foster and Dr. Marshman have laboured to make it appear that all the assertions, so constantly made on this subject, were merely the result of an 'affectionate carelessness'—that 'they could not, of course, be understood' by Fuller and his companions, 'as imply-

‘ II. That, in the opinion of this Committee, it will most fully meet the just expectations of the Christian public in Britain, and best secure the appropriation of the Serampore premises to the purpose for which

ing that any surrender had actually been made,’ since such an interpretation ‘ would have appeared to them contrary to common honesty ’*—I must trespass on the reader’s patience while I enable him to compare these singular representations with the fact.

1. I have before me a printed copy of ‘ Regulations for the use of the Out-stations, agreed upon at a meeting of the brethren at Serampore, October 7, 1805,’ which contains the following paragraph:—‘ The buildings and property of every kind at each station are to be considered not as belonging to the individuals at the stations, but as missionary property, belonging to the Society in England, and under the management of the brethren at Serampore; so that nothing of this kind can be sold or alienated without the consent of the latter.’

2. A similar printed paper (without date), indorsed by Mr. Fuller, ‘ Letter addressed to the Junior Brethren,’ enacts as follows:—

‘ Every missionary station to have the disposal of any surplus arising from their labours, after they have supported themselves, for *missionary purposes alone*; that is, either to enlarge the mission under their care, or remit it to the Society, observing, however, the fundamental rules on which the mission is founded.

‘ The fundamental rules of the mission, are equality of labour and private supplies, the prohibition of private trade, and the esteeming of all property at each station (private allowance excepted) the property of the Society, sacred to God and the missionary cause. As long as these rules are observed at a station, so long we shall think it our duty to continue in union with that station—but no longer.’

3. When, in 1807, a proposal was made to the Serampore brethren, by Dr. Buchanan, to unite in a scheme for forming a ‘ British Propaganda,’ they declined it, among other reasons, for this, ‘ The press, and the premises on which the Missionaries reside, did not belong to the Missionaries, but to the Society.’ To alienate them, therefore, without their consent, appeared to the Missionaries a deed replete with ingratitude, injustice, and fraud.’

4. In a letter from Dr. Marshman to Dr. Ryland, dated May 8, 1812, he writes thus:—Your property at this moment in India is worth not less than ten thousand pounds, which the following list will shew:—

‘ Premises at Serampore, worth at least	£5000
Property in the printing-office remaining after the fire, in presses, punches, and melted metal	1500
Mr. Grant’s legacy, left to the support of the Mission, the interest only applicable thereto	2500
Property in the Mission-house, 34, Lall Bazaar, Calcutta	1000

. N.B.—The remainder purchased jointly with our little private property.

Money in the Chapel, lent by us time after time, in order to rear and finish it	2000
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N.B.—This now runs at interest, and we hope at some future day the congregation will be able to clear it off.

Money in hand, belonging to the out-stations fund, including what we are to receive from Messrs. Rolt and Fernandez	1500
Property in the Mission-house at Rangoon	500
Ditto, at Digah, near Patna	500

54 *Sentiments of Fuller, Sutcliff, &c. on the Question.*

they were originally designed, if all the trusts were consolidated in one, and if the present Trustees were to associate with themselves in the trust, other individuals to be approved by this Committee, some of whom shall be resident in this country.

‘ III. That this Committee again solemnly disclaim any intention to

Bungalow, &c. at Goamalty	900
Ditto at Cutwa	100
Outstanding Debts belonging to the School, in general good	3000
Library, Museum, &c.	1500
In various works at press, and partly printed off—brother Carey’s Bengalee Dictionary—second edition of bro- ther Ward’s work, 600 copies—second edition of Con- fucius—an edition of Rippon’s Hymns, &c.	1200

£20,400.

‘ Full *twenty* thousand pounds sterling, instead of *ten*, not a farthing of which belongs to us, but all to you.’

But did the ‘ upright men’ to whom these ‘ casual expressions’ were addressed, take such an advantage of their brethren as to infer that they really meant what they said ?

1. Mr. Fuller, writing to the Rev. John Owen, Secretary of the Bible Society, April 23, 1808, remarks, in reference to Dr. Buchanan’s Propaganda Scheme, ‘ I need not say that the Missionaries could not accede to it, for if there had been no other objection, it would have been alienating 5000*l.* of which they were only Trustees.’

2. In a ‘ Brief Statement of the Baptist Mission,’ dated Kettering, July 27, 1812, signed Andrew Fuller, Secretary, and circulated by thousands through the kingdom, it is stated, ‘ the annual expenditure of this mission, at home and abroad, exclusive of the translations, amounts at present to *five or six thousand pounds*. It has not cost the public, however, upon an average, during the twenty years of its continuance, more than *two thousand* per annum ; and out of this there are buildings and other accommodations for the mission, to the value of six or eight thousand pounds, which remain the property of the Society.’

3. A memorial presented about the same time to the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval, signed on behalf of the Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society by Andrew Fuller, John Sutcliff, and James Hinton, varies a little in stating the amount. ‘ To form and sustain an establishment adequate to the purposes above stated (i. e. translations, schools, and preachers), the Society has necessarily incurred a very heavy expense. The value of their property, now at Serampore, and other places in India, is of a very considerable amount, not less than £10,000 ; and the annual charge of conducting the mission is, on the average, not less than £8000.

These quotations will probably be thought decisive, as to the interpretation put by Fuller and Sutcliff on the ‘ occasional expressions’ dropped in the ‘ affectionate carelessness’ of the correspondence from Serampore. When I contrast, with Dr. Marshman’s letter to Dr. Ryland, as quoted above, his assurance to Mr. Sutton* (when in India), that ‘ it never entered his mind for a moment that the Society possessed any property at Serampore, and the Christian world is consequently much mistaken,’ I am reminded of the pithy remark of my late venerable colleague, ‘ It does not depend on my will to believe a zigzag line to be perfectly straight ;’ and must conclude that another excellent man was in the right when he accounted for some of Dr. Marshman’s ‘ tortuosities,’ by saying, ‘ I believe a certain kind of crooked policy is natural to him ; it runs through all he does and says.’

* Letter from Mr. Sutton to Mr. Dyer, August 20, 1818.

interfere with the management of the property at Serampore, and although, in one particular of their conduct—namely, the sending out of new Missionaries—they have been thought by their Serampore brethren to discover such a disposition, they can assure them that in this they were actuated solely by a desire to meet their own wishes.

‘ IV. That, while this Committee conceive that every Missionary Society must possess the right of adding to the number of Missionaries at their respective stations, they wish on all occasions scrupulously to guard against associating with their brethren an objectionable person, and hope that in future mutual confidence will be exercised on this point. They propose, therefore, that whenever it may be thought desirable to send an additional missionary to Serampore, he shall be considered as residing there at least six months on probation, at the close of which period, if his permanent settlement there should not be agreeable, either to the resident Missionaries or to himself, he shall remove to such other station as may be mutually agreed upon; and if the Missionaries at Serampore wish to add any of their brethren in Bengal to their number, they will, with the same desire to promote mutual confidence, mention it to the Society for their ratification.

‘ These Resolutions, having been read and discussed separately, were unanimously agreed to,* and it was thereupon resolved,

‘ That the Treasurer and Secretary, with Dr. Newman, Dr. Gregory, Messrs. Gutteridge, Shaw, Ivimey, and Gurney, be deputed by the Committee to confer with Mr. Ward on the subjects of the preceding Resolutions respectively, to convince that gentleman of the solicitude of the Committee to restore the utmost confidence and harmony between the Serampore Missionaries and themselves, and to give and receive all explanations tending to cordial co-operation; and that they report to the Committee at the meeting in January the nature and result of that conference.’

Of this conference the following minute occurs, under date of January 7, 1820.

‘ The whole of the Sub-committee appointed to confer with Mr. Ward, on the Resolutions passed December 31, met accordingly; and after much conversation on the subject, Mr. Ward distinctly declared his assent to each of them respectively. It was understood at the same time that he expressed his individual opinion only, and was not to be considered as answering for the concurrence of his colleagues at Serampore.

This encouraging result was reported to the Committee on the 25th of the same month, and Dr. Ryland was requested to convey these Resolutions, as well as those regarding

* Present, Mr. Burls, Treasurer; Messrs. Gutteridge, Griffin, Coles, Edmonds, Gurney, Hanson, Hoby, Marshall, Ivimey, Saffery, Smith, Drs. Newman and Gregory, and Mr. Dyer, Secretary.

Calcutta, to the senior Missionaries without delay. His letter, enclosing them, has already been given.* (See page 14)

It was, perhaps, not unreasonable to expect that communications made in such a spirit, attended with the clearest possible evidence of the anxious desire of the Committee to compose all differences between the senior and junior brethren,† and sanctioned by the express and formal concurrence of Mr. Ward, would have had a favourable issue. Such hopes were, to a considerable degree, strengthened by the tenor of the Resolutions adopted at Serampore on the receipt of our letter, July 14, 1820,‡ and forwarded by Dr.

* At this meeting Mr. Ward recommended, by letter, that the Committee should confirm the election of Mr. John Marshman into the Union at Serampore, a step which he uniformly represented as the most probable of all expedients to produce satisfaction there; on which it was resolved, 'That the Committee are unanimously of opinion that they cannot proceed to the consideration of that question until they have received further communications from Serampore.'

† See p. 13 of this letter.

' March 11, 1821.

‡ ' The Brethren of the Serampore Union for propagating the Gospel in India, having met July 14, 1820, to consider certain Resolutions and Proposals of the Committee met in London, December 31, 1819, they resolved,

' I. That as they have already declared in their Articles of Union, dated January 14, 1820, and in their Public Statement, dated January 20, 1820, "that they purchased the premises at Serampore with the view of their being perpetually applied to the cause of God in India, and to prevent their becoming private property in their own families, or their being sold by their successors, declared them in the title deeds to be purchased in trust for the Society, while, to secure the occupation of them to themselves and those whom they might choose as their successors, they appointed themselves and certain others Trustees;" they anew declare that nothing more fully accords with their original intention, and their present wishes, than for the right of *property* in them to remain for ever vested in the Society for these purposes. And as they have never swerved from their original intention, they regret that the Committee by adding "that were they to consent to the alienation of these premises from the Society, they would violate the confidence reposed in them by the public," should even distantly hint that such a proposal had been made. As the Society derive their right of property in them not from the public, but from the brethren whose labour purchased them, it was impossible that these brethren should make any such proposal.

' II. That they doubt whether they can legally change or alter the original deeds on which these three houses were separately purchased; but on this subject they will take the opinion of the ablest counsel in India; and if they find it practicable, they will *themselves* most cheerfully select and associate in the trust with themselves certain of the Committee in Britain, so as to secure by the requisite deeds the right of *property* in these premises to the Society, and the right of *occupation* and *management* to the brethren of the Serampore Union for propagating the Gospel, and their coadjutors and successors chosen as expressed in their Articles of Union, dated January 14, 1820. But they do not consider the Society's right of *property* in these premises to be suspended on this act; they regard it as fully secured by the present deeds. They never declared themselves any thing but Trustees, and Trustees can never be proprietors. And they further regard these reci-

Carey to Dr. Ryland; but unhappily, another communication, dated about three months afterwards, from the same quarter, demonstrated that those misconceptions of the conduct of the Committee which had pervaded the long letter of September, 1817, still prevailed in all their force.

In the communication now referred to, Dr. Ryland was addressed 'as Secretary,' with the express request that he would communicate it to the Society.* A special meeting of the General Committee was therefore summoned, April 25, 1821, at which nineteen members were present,† and the Serampore Resolutions, the letter before mentioned, and another, written from New York by Mr. Ward to Mr. Burls, were read, and their contents freely and fully discussed. The result I transcribe from the Committee minutes of that date.

'It was at length agreed that a letter should be immediately sent to

procal declarations, on their part respecting the Society's right of property, and on the part of the Committee respecting the Serampore brethren's right of occupation and management, thus solemnly made in the face of the Christian public, as far more binding both on the Serampore Union and the Committee, than any legal deed or bond whatever.

'III. That they deem the act of the Committee, in again solemnly disclaiming any intention to interfere with the management of this property, to be perfectly just. And they in like manner again disclaim any intention even to establish any right of property in these premises.

'IV. That they cannot accede to their brethren's interfering in any way with the election of members of their Union, or to their interference in any of its concerns. They regard this as contrary both to natural right and to the spirit of the Gospel; and feel sorry that such a proposal should have been made them, after they had unitedly and solemnly declared their unalterable resolution on this point in their public letter, dated September 26, 1817, to which they will ever inviolably adhere. To perpetuate their union they have in the Articles of Union, dated January 14, 1820, declared that when applied to for that purpose as therein mentioned, the Committee shall as brethren *recommend* three candidates from whom a member of the Union shall be chosen; but the *election* of members, the right over the funds they originate, and the exclusive management of all their own concerns both public and private, they regard as their unalienable birth-right, with which they again solemnly declare that they will never part. Between two bodies which support themselves, mutual confidence can never be raised and preserved but on the basis of acknowledged mutual independence; as brethren thus co-operating with brethren, like two sister churches or two associations in England, it is in their hearts to live and die with their brethren at home in the great work of propagating the Gospel in India. But if this be refused them, they shall esteem it their duty to go on in the work alone as the Lord may enable them.'

* Compare with this the account given in Statement, page 118.

† Their names may be found in Statement, page 117, with the exception of Mr. J. B. Wilson, who was absent, probably, when the signatures were affixed.

Serampore, embracing the various points referred to in these letters, the object of which shall be—

‘ To vindicate the Society from the charge of aggression respecting the premises, but intimating at the same time that the mode of settlement they have proposed does not meet our approbation ;

‘ To shew that their claim to the sole election of coadjutors and successors is wholly inconsistent with their former proposals, but declining any further contest thereon ;

‘ To repeat the disclaimer so often made of any wish or intention to interfere in their internal management, or the employment of their funds ;

‘ To deny the statement given by Mr. Adam in his letter to Dr. Stuart, as quoted by Dr. Carey ;

‘ To explain respecting the transfer of the cash account to Messrs. Alexander and Co. ;

‘ To mention the circumstances which rendered it impossible to comply with their wish, and advance 1500*l.* per annum out of the fund for general purposes ;

‘ To assure our brethren that the various communications which have taken place between us have never been published for general information ; and finally,

‘ To explain in what sense we can recognize their independence of the Society.

‘ A letter to this effect, which had been prepared by the Secretary, was then produced and read. The various parts were fully considered, and after some alterations, it was adopted, and resolved that it should be forwarded with the individual signature of each member of the Committee present.

‘ Resolved also, That this letter should be forwarded to Dr. Ryland for his signature, if it meet his approbation, and that it should be printed for the use of the Committee.’

This letter, having been given at full length by Dr. Marshman (Statement, page 105—117), I do not insert it here. According to the vote of the Committee, each member was supplied with a copy, a sufficient number being printed for the purpose, and one was sent to Mr. Ward also, who was then on the eve of his return to India.* A few days after,

* The letter inclosing this copy, dated May 11, gave the following account of it:—‘ We have written at length in reply to a late communication from Dr. Carey, and having printed copies for the information of the distant members of the Committee, we send one of them for your perusal.’ The following paragraphs terminated this valedictory letter to Mr. Ward:—

‘ We know not that we have any thing to add to these brief remarks but the sincere expressions of our Christian affection, and our earnest prayer that you and your dear companions may have a prosperous voyage, by the will of God. We desire to be thankful that your visit amongst us has been so evidently beneficial to your bodily health, and that you have, in so con-

Mr. Ward met the Committee for the last time, when this letter formed the principal topic of conversation. Our minute of that date (May 16) was as follows :

‘ Much conversation took place with Mr. Ward respecting the state of affairs between the Society and Serampore. Mr. Ward mentioned some parts of the letter lately forwarded (April 25) to Serampore as requiring explanation, and appeared to be satisfied with the explanations that were given. He expressed his opinion, that in the choice of coadjutors and successors the Society should have a *veto* ; and that the independence he claimed for Serampore was not the being a dis-

siderable a degree, been succeeded in the principal object you had in view. We bless God that many have been refreshed by your ministerial labours, and that especially you have been instrumental in strengthening the impression on many a pious heart, that in order to ensure success to Missionary exertions, a more simple and absolute dependance must be placed on the sovereign and almighty influences of the Spirit of God. We will freely acknowledge our regret that your communications with us as a Committee, have been so few, and that when we have met, you should have felt yourself under such a visible restraint ; but surely you have seen enough to convince you that however, on some points, we may be constrained conscientiously to differ in opinion from you and your colleagues, we love you all as brethren, rejoice in all that you are accomplishing for the millions of India, and are ready to do our utmost to assist and co-operate with you. Assure your brethren that we have never bent a willing ear to the voice of calumny, nor aimed, for a moment, to impose upon you the yoke of bondage.

‘ We think we can say with sincerity, that we have acted towards you as we should wish you to act towards us, if our situations were reversed. We know that prosperity like yours, brings with it corresponding temptations : from the influence of these, we believe you have not been wholly exempt, but while we have felt it an indispensable duty to bear our testimony against what has appeared to us improper, we have aimed to do it, not merely in that spirit of Christian meekness which ought ever to prevail among Christians in general, but with that affectionate esteem which is justly due to those who have been enabled to render such important services in the kingdom of our God and Saviour. We cannot but look upon the misconceptions which have prevailed so long respecting our views and feelings towards you, as affording a memorable proof of the power and subtilty of that invisible foe whose empire of darkness and of guilt we are associated to destroy—but, oh ! let not his devices prevail, nor admit the thought for a moment that we would seek to embitter, by any groundless jealousy or unholy strife, the last days of brethren whom we honour and love ; such conduct in us would be as foolish as it would be unkind. We are members one of another, and if one suffer, the rest must suffer with it. Your reputation and comfort are so closely connected with our own, that if they be attacked, we cannot but feel. May we all act henceforward more under the influence of this principle, and prove that we are of one heart and one soul, as long as a wise and holy Providence shall permit us to serve our generation on earth !

‘ We are, dear brother Ward,

‘ Very affectionately yours,

‘ Signed, on behalf of the Committee,

‘ WILLIAM BURLS, Chairman.

tinct Society, but such a connexion as would secure affectionate co-operation without interference or control, in which the Committee acquiesced.'

Thus terminated the personal intercourse between the Committee and Mr. Ward. From the tenor of these closing communications, strongly corroborated as they were by what fell from him in a more private way, we were induced to conclude that, on his arrival in India, he would succeed in imparting to his colleagues the same views and feelings which he appeared to cherish himself; and that discussions so little productive of comfort or advantage, would never be renewed. But we were not suffered long to indulge these agreeable anticipations. In the month of August 1822, Mr. John Marshman arrived from Serampore, and brought with him the letter, dated December 17, 1821, signed by himself, and his three elder colleagues, which occupies *thirty pages* of Dr. Marshman's Statement (pages 118—148). To this prolix document, it is true, no official reply was ever given by the Committee, for reasons which probably some of my readers will be at no loss to assign. Two or three letters, occasioned by it, shall, however be inserted, as they will throw light upon the document itself, and on the feelings it excited in those to whom it was addressed.

The first was addressed by Dr. Ryland to Dr. Marshman, the day after Mr. John Marshman had called upon him.

Bristol, August 21, 1822.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

'Your son called on me yesterday morning. I was exceedingly feeble, and am going to-morrow to the sea-side, by Dr. Stock's advice, as I found much benefit from doing so last year. I am quite puzzled and confounded by your long printed Statement, and must leave it to others to decide what answer can be given to it. I have always sought the welfare of our Mission with my whole heart, and have had such anxiety about it as has done much towards wearing out my strength; but I can do no more. I have laboured to state clearly my own ideas on the subject, but nothing I can say seems to obtain any credit.

'I did think it expedient when Mrs. Marshman was in England, to avoid entering into any dispute with a female, especially on a subject on which I might think her husband partly to blame, and I feel much the same impression of mind with respect to your son, who can know but very little respecting the persons he may now meet with in England.

'Of one thing I am sure, that though I have frankly told *you* of whatever appeared to me to have been wrong, yet it has been the sub-

ject of my greatest solicitude to keep from the knowledge of others, the differences that have taken place since the death of dear brother Fuller. Never did a more ungrounded idea enter the mind of a good man, than that expressed by dear brother Carey, viz. "That a hue and cry had been raised against *you* throughout the Christian world." If we had printed the pamphlets you sent over, we should indeed have made the matter public, and have occasioned a vast deal of discussion on both sides, which would have done irretrievable mischief both to *you* and to *us*, and to the cause of Missions in general.*

' The simple fact is this, which you have partly acknowledged in the last letter I received from you:—You laid down a plan for *yourselves*, which was received with universal applause, but which struck me early as too democratic for action.

' *You* naturally led some of the Committee to expect more than was reasonable. You also led those who went out to India after you into a like mistake. If you had proposed any reasonable *alteration* AS SUCH, I believe most of your friends in England would have speedily fallen in with it: I am satisfied *I* should for one. You always talked of the premises at Serampore as belonging to the Society. This was not my fault. I have observed that it was no unnatural question, "How are they secured to the Society?" The answer was, "We do not know," and the reply was as natural, "Then we ought to know." This occasioned the proposal of Trustees, a part in India and part in England; at which you took so great and groundless an alarm. This may well be excused: but I cannot think you so excusable in disregarding all our subsequent explanations and protestations. I believe He that searches all hearts, will never sanction the hundredth part of the charges you have brought against the Committee in your printed letter. I know of no one that ever wished to lord it over you, or to inmate you with persons not congenial to you. I cannot but think, that in the disputes between you and the brethren at Calcutta there have been faults on both sides. This *they* have readily allowed, and so have Dr. Carey and Mr. Ward. But as a man who expects soon to leave this world, I am compelled to say, not to *others*, but to *yourself*, that your letters compel me to think much worse of your spirit towards the younger brethren, than any thing I ever heard from Calcutta. I dare not, for fear of the Most High, have any hand in compelling them to leave their present station, though good men of other denominations might be glad to succeed them in it. But I must leave it all. We have done our best to help your Translations and Schools, and no little sum have we gained for both. My dear colleague has engaged to go with Mr. Kinghorn to Scotland in a few weeks time, where most that is gained will be for these purposes. But I do not think it possible that your son should get much at this time. Alva Woods is just come to collect for the Columbian College, and we really are not made of money. It seems to me, you would not wil-

* Referring to the Statements brought over by Mrs. Marshman, which the Committee are accused for *not* printing. See Pref. p. xlvii. Statement, p. 119.

lingly leave us a shilling for any other station than Serampore. We have been obliged to borrow 3000*l*. We have just sent another Missionary to Jamaica, where the fields are white for harvest,* and one to the Bay of Honduras, where there is said to be a promising opening. And we have several Students ready to go out, if we had but money to send them. If you are determined to make the dispute public, you may sometime rue the consequences when I am in my grave. I shall die praying for you all,

and am,

Yours sincerely,

‘JOHN RYLAND.’

Shortly after, our late friend Mr. Saffery of Salisbury, whose devotedness to the cause of the Baptist Mission for many years, is universally known, wrote thus to Mr. Ward :

‘Salisbury, October 2, 1822.

‘MY DEAR BROTHER,

‘We were glad with the account of our school at Serampore in your letter by Mr. Marshman, and shall be obliged by a communication once a year at least, to give impulse to our exertions in this good work. I trust that these will not be wanting in my friends, though I cannot disguise the fact that they, with many others, have their painful feelings in connexion with Serampore—feelings of indignation which are enkindling in every direction; the fires of which the Committee after years of labour and anxiety are no longer able to quench or subdue. The printed letter by Mr. Marshman has added to the consternation and grief of the Committee; but I will speak as an *individual*: whether I contrast it with the calm and affectionate spirit that breathes in our letters to Serampore, or as an answer to these letters, I am confounded. You *repeatedly* say, that “five lines written in a proper spirit would have set every thing right.” Yet you labour through *nine* pages of closely printed letter-press, under an influence totally hostile. You speak of *yourselves* as “faithful men” “labouring for us,” “originating funds” “perfectly independent,” “firm as the solid rock that resists the wave,” &c. &c. while you characterize the Committee as “ignorant,” “inattentive,” “influenced by a spirit of domination,” “ungenerous,” “unrighteous,” “foolish,” &c. Whether you will receive an answer from this unrighteous and execrated Committee, I am not aware; but from *one* of them you must endure remonstrance. Oh! how could such a letter obtain the signatures of *Carey, Marshman, and Ward!* How, especially, could it obtain yours after what had passed in England! Nearly the whole of the first page is occupied in representing the Committee as great offenders for having *printed and circulated* the letter to Serampore, as though we had *PUBLISHED it to the world*. *This is the idea* you mean to impress, while the word *circulated* is

* * Coultart has 1500 members.’

warily employed. Now I ask, were you not *all convinced* that no such publicity had taken place, and that it never was intended; but that the letter was printed *merely* for the Committee, who, though they could not all meet, were anxious respecting these discussions, and had a right to be informed of their issue? But *you knew* that it was printed, and on what account too, *before you left England*. You *held* one of these *printed Copies* with the Committee! Yet you say, December 17, 1821, "within five days, to our astonishment, a *printed copy* had been handed us of this very letter!"

'Your complaint respecting the suppression of your Statement, page 1, is without cause, since it was suppressed in tenderness to the Serampore brethren, and for no other reason. And indeed the copies of the letter were returned by the Committee to the Secretary, to be sealed up and consigned to secrecy. To this measure *Mrs. Marshman*, when it was explained to her, *consented!* And it is my *conviction* that you did the same. You must, my dear brother, bear with my saying that the seventh page of your late communication appears to me replete with sophistry and misstatement, relative to a conversation which passed between you and Dr. Ryland.—Surely when you informed him what you had written to Serampore, *before you had seen any of us*, you referred to the premises in dispute, not to the "College premises" about which nothing had been said. Why, otherwise, when *conversed* with respecting the *former*, did you not say, I meant the *latter*? And why did you charge *several of us*, when conversing with you on the subject of the former, to "get them secured while Dr. Carey and you were alive," without any reference to the settlement of the College premises? Here I would ask, what led the Committee to think of the insecurity of the property at Serampore? *Your own letter—your own proposal*; and notwithstanding all your charges, I believe there is not a *person in England*, who *ever indulged the remotest desire* to dispossess the inhabitants of the mission house at Serampore—to interfere with their internal arrangements—or in any way to circumscribe their exertions; but you have fostered this idea—like a serpent it clings to your embrace: yet if you dare, thus warned, to cherish the infatuation, it must be at the peril of your private peace, by a wound inflicted on the reputation of the cause. Our sin in Britain has been that of *glorying in men*, and verily we have our reward! I hope, too, that the correction will have a salutary influence.

Your letters frequently refer, in the language of invidious eulogium, to characters as dear to us, as they can be to the warmest hearts in India. Think, then, with what emotions we see the names of Fuller, Sutcliff, and Ryland, thus covertly enlisted on your side, as champions to make war on the Committee. But do you not know, my brother, that *one* of these men still lives—lives to *act and feel* in concert with the Committee, while he is almost bowed to death itself with depression arising from the jarring interests of Serampore? And are you not convinced that, had the other two been living, you would not have ventured upon the line of conduct that you have pursued? Such is my conviction; and such is the conviction of all with

whose sentiments I am acquainted. It cannot indeed be otherwise, while we recollect how frequently Fuller was telling us that all the property at Serampore was the Society's, and that he as frequently remarked, how great that property was. But you will say "the Society has a right of *property* in the premises at Serampore." Let me ask of what use this is to the Society, while you are pertinaciously pursuing measures wholly at variance with such a right? This, at least, is my opinion. You tell us that *you* have given up the *right of property* in these premises, and vested it in *the Society*; but what right of property has the Society in premises for which it has not the nomination of Trustees? No, not one of them, I believe—that nomination is with you only—you also nominate *yourselves*, and you are *Trustees in possession*. Moreover, I think that in the declaration of which you make *such a boast*, you were no more disposed to obtain the concurrence of other Trustees *in India, originally* put in by *yourselves*, than you were to confide any thing to the Committee. I believe that I am not mistaken in saying that the said instrument is *not* the declaration of *all* the persons to whom the property was first entrusted, but of *the Serampore brethren only*! Nay more, this perpetuated family of *four* persons, cannot be dispossessed, unless their successors were to become wicked enough to appropriate these premises to merely civil purposes! perhaps not then! In their choice of coadjutors, when a vacancy occurs, *they cannot be controlled—they will let none interfere*—they only *in succession* are to determine who is eligible. If these *four* members should be reduced to *three*, and *two* of these *three*, thinking it right that this union should continue no longer independent, should return to the bosom of the Baptist Missionary Society, or should "*betray its independence to any body of men whatever*," the one member who differs from them shall be competent to elect *two* new colleagues. (See the twenty-third Article of your union.) To set this matter clearly before you, if Dr. Marshman were to die, and you and Dr. Carey were to change your mind, and to "attempt" to "betray this union" by again becoming one with the Baptist Missionary Society, Mr. John Marshman would be "competent" to consider *both* of you as having "*withdrawn*," and at once to elect new colleagues! This is one of the many absurdities you have exhibited in your eagerness to get rid of an *imaginary domination*! Probably in the case above supposed, you would not be very reluctant to seek that connexion which you now so indignantly reject.

But *you* will say, there is no fear of such a dilemma, while *I* see nothing to prevent it, and I am much mistaken, if the incipient mischief be not already visible. In the event of Dr. Carey's death, and the election of a successor, where would you find him? Not among the brethren at Calcutta; nor yet among those in the provinces. Dr. Carey has *two* sons, whose *religion, zeal, and disinterestedness* are unimpeached; but you know that these men would not do for this *FAMILY union*. Of course, you could not think of applying to the Society in England, after having rejected the Committee, and all its Missionaries in India. Whither then would you turn?

‘ But if instead of Dr. Carey, you should be the first removed by death, who would supply your lack of service, and fill up the void in this *family union*? Here again, the same difficulties occur. Mr. Pearce indeed is a *printer*. Mr. Ward once *wished* him to be sent out, and the Society thought they were complying with the desires of the Serampore brethren by sending him; but he has been rejected, and the Society denounced for presuming to obtrude him on the *family*. Still however, there is no room for despair. Mr. Ward has left a nephew, *a printer, trained up by him at Serampore, and pious too*. He must be suitable—no one can object to him. Ah! my brother, *this would avail nothing*. In reading the first paragraph, page 9, of your last printed letter, where the Serampore brethren are represented, “as encouraging Mr. N. Ward to accept of the invitation of Sir S. Raffles, &c.” I was reminded, that when at Salisbury, you told me of your earnest desire to retain him at Serampore, and of Dr. Marshman’s objection, with the wounded state of your own feelings on this subject; adverting at the same time to a letter of Dr. Marshman’s, in which he endeavoured, with many expressions of affection, to reconcile you to his views, particularly from the consideration that your nephew had not *weight* enough for Serampore. This was the idea conveyed, though I do not remember the exact words. I cannot therefore subscribe to the declaration in that paragraph, viz. that N. Ward was sent to Sumatra “*solely* with the view of advancing our Missionary interests.” Your letter argues “the propriety of the step you afterwards sanctioned by sending other Missionaries thither.” The Society sent them at *your earnest solicitation*. I hope that it will be for great good in the furtherance of the Gospel that they are gone thither, but certainly the *Committee did not know* that the expense of this station was the result of Dr. Marshman’s determination, that your nephew should not remain at Serampore, though you *earnestly desired* it, and declared to me that you were exceedingly hurt at his being thus rejected. Using your own words in reference to this affair, with a verbal alteration, “Was it kind to conceal these circumstances, if you adverted to the case at all?”

‘ You may charge us with “folly in quoting,” what you denominate “insulated passages from printed letters.” But these letters are in the *public* documents of the Society, and form a part of their annals, as the *sentiments—the acts of the Serampore brethren!* It is remembered also, that before leaving England, you said to the Committee, that *you saw no objection* to the *veto* of the Society in the choice of coadjutors, or to that effect. But you have since arrived in India! Allow me, my dear brother, to express my conviction that this *veto* might have saved you, but *that* being gone, there is nothing left to protect the concern at Serampore from *moral* dilapidation. For *you* I have no fear, but who are to be your *successors*? Here has been our solicitude. Surely these, whoever they may be, are more in danger in misdirecting such a concern, than fifty persons selected by an annual vote from among the most experienced and devout in the denomination in England, who can have no *personal*,

no *family* interest to promote, nor be under a temptation to pervert the establishment from its original purposes. You may imagine that you will have the public with you, but you are mistaken. The *majority*, not only of our *own* denomination, but of the *Christian world* will be against you *in this affair*. At an Association of the Hants and Wilts churches last week, I was called upon to explain your relations to the Society, and questioned whether you were not an independent Mission, liable to no responsibility? I told the brethren that you were prosecuting the work of God, and that they ought to look upon you as men devoted to him, though you unhappily differed from the Committee. But they with one voice replied, you had departed from your *original* and *avowed principles*, and that there was nothing to prevent Serampore from becoming a secularized, and even an irreligious establishment! This I could not gainsay. Nay, unless God mercifully interpose, to this it will come. That it is even now tending thither is, I believe, the prevailing opinion. Had you gone hand in hand with the Society—had you frankly confessed you had been mistaken, and proposed alterations openly and unequivocally—had you trusted in God, and renounced all crooked policy, much mischief might have been prevented. But I forbear, and shall add nothing on the subject of Mr. J. Marshman's visit, and the line of conduct he is pursuing in printing, &c. "*according to his instructions.*"

'It is thirty years to day since the Society was formed. From the first I have been identified with it. *Within six months* after its formation, our Hants and Wilts Assistant Society was constituted, to which, from its commencement, I have been officially attached, and God has been pleased to own my feeble efforts in procuring some thousands for the Mission. The remainder of my life will, I trust, be devoted to the same blessed cause; but *it must be in aid of the Society*. You have compelled the separation. You have thought it best to be independent—and you must abide the consequences.—There is nothing official in this communication. I have consulted no one. I have stated what appears to me to be fair, both as to *fact*, and to *inference*, and I have aimed to do it with affection, as well as with faithfulness.

'You are quite at liberty to dispose of this letter as you please. I desire nothing but that God may be glorified. May we *be little in our own eyes*, then we may hope for his blessing. We are hastening to the invisible and better world. In the light of that we shall have clearer views, and better feelings. There I expect through rich mercy to meet you. Till then may we be increasingly like him who *pleased not himself*. So prays,

Your grieved, but affectionate friend and brother,

'JOHN SAFFERY.'

The following letter enters, more fully, into an examination of the various allegations against the Committee. It was addressed to a much esteemed member of that body.

whose great distance from London prevented his personal attendance with them, and written without an idea of its being made public.

London, November 26, 1822.

‘ MY DEAR SIR,

‘ AT length I sit down to fulfil my promise of giving you some remarks on the printed letter from Serampore, dated Dec. 17, 1821, a copy of which you received from Mr. Marshman. I have already mentioned some reasons which prevented my doing this earlier, in addition to which I will own that the length to which I foresee my remarks must extend, and the very nature of the task itself, concurred to prolong my delay. I have greatly feared, lest, in commenting upon a document which I deem so unjust and disingenuous, I should yield to the temptation of indulging an asperity of temper, from which I trust, notwithstanding all their provocations, the correspondence of the Committee has hitherto been free; but still I must regard it as an act of justice, called for at my hands, to impart that information on the various topics referred to, which I possess, and which you have very naturally expressed a desire to obtain.

‘ As the letter in question must be regarded, principally, as a series of charges against the Committee, the most regular and satisfactory method will be, to notice each in succession, and then to add, at the close, any observations which may appear to be further necessary.

‘ 1. It is represented that the public letter, sent by the Committee to the brethren at Serampore, dated April 25, 1821, was an answer to a private communication from Dr. Carey to Dr. Ryland; and that, therefore, it was improper to send a reply addressed ‘to the whole body’ (i. e. the three Serampore brethren). To this I reply; 1. That Dr. Ryland, being the senior Secretary of the Society, through whose medium much of the correspondence had been carried on, and Dr. Carey’s letter, containing a grave accusation of the conduct of the Committee, having been forwarded by him to them, it cannot be viewed as a private communication.* But, 2. It appears truly extraordinary that such a charge should have been brought, when the contrary is asserted in the very first paragraph of the Committee’s letter. That paragraph distinctly specifies the letter of July 14, 1820, enclosing a series of Resolutions, signed by each of the Members of the Serampore Union then in India, as one of the two articles to which it was intended to reply. Those resolutions were a formal reply to a preceding series, drawn up by the Committee, with much care and deliberation, dated December 31, 1819, and ‘embraced all the points at issue’ between them and the Serampore brethren. Hence, then, I think it must be evident that this complaint is wholly unfounded: and advanced, indeed, when nothing more was necessary to prove it so than a simple reference to the letter itself.

‘ * On referring to the letter itself, I find it the express request of Dr. Carey that it might be communicated.’

‘ But independently of this, supposing that the fact had been as it is erroneously represented, and that the statements in the letter of the Committee had been drawn up solely in answer to the charges preferred against them in Dr. Carey’s second letter, I would ask whether they were not fully justified in repelling those charges contained in a letter to their own Secretary—nay, whether they would not have been guilty of a criminal remissness if they had omitted to do so—and whether it is not more than probable that such an omission would be viewed as a tacit confession that they had no defence to make? The fact is, that, in the letter referred to, written just at the close of Mr. Ward’s residence in England, and when, of course, the Committee had derived all the advantages they could expect to do from his personal communications, they wished, in one comprehensive document, to embrace “the conclusion of the whole matter,” and put a final end to a correspondence so little adapted to gratify either party engaged in it.

‘ 2. You will perceive that much stress is laid on the alleged fact of our letter having been *published*—I say, *published*, because, though the word *circulated* is constantly employed, yet, as this circulation is said to “bring the Serampore brethren *before the PUBLIC* in the most disadvantageous circumstances,” it is evident that this is the *gravamen* of the complaint. With this reflection on the Committee, too, is connected a reference to their own conduct, by way of contrast, highly advantageous to themselves. On this reference, I shall simply remark that I believe there is not a line in the correspondence of the Committee with Serampore, which, on their own account, they would be ashamed to publish. But as to the *publication*, it is not enough to say, that it has never taken place—duty requires me to add that *this was well known to one of the parties bringing the accusation against us*. It was judged necessary that a document of such importance should be communicated to the whole Committee; and for this purpose, a sufficient number of copies were struck off, with every precaution to ensure perfect secrecy. No sooner had these copies come from the press than one of them was enclosed to Mr. Ward, in an official letter, by the Secretary, in which it was stated, *totidem verbis*, that, “having printed copies for the information of the distant members of the Committee,” one of them was sent for his perusal; and this identical copy Mr. Ward held in his hand when he met the Committee and conversed upon its contents a few days after, viz. May 20. Such being the plain facts of the case, it really does appear surprising to me how Mr. Ward could affix his signature to the letter containing the charge in question!

‘ 3. The next matter of complaint is, that the Committee did not publish and circulate the ‘Statement’ drawn up in January 1820, and sent to this country by Mrs. Marshman. As this step on the part of the Committee had been known at Serampore for a twelve-month previous to the date of the present letter, and no disapprobation, that I am aware of, had been expressed on account of it, I had supposed that our brethren there had believed the Committee sincere in omitting the publication out of regard to them. This pamphlet was designed to

vindicate the Serampore Missionaries from "various unfounded and slanderous reports," said to be "industriously circulated in Britain, tending to impeach even their integrity." The Committee well knew that, at that time, suspicions respecting the propriety of the conduct of the Serampore brethren were confined to a very few—they were reasonably expecting that the representations which had been made in writing and by conversation with Mr. Ward would be the means of removing every thing on which the shadow of an imputation might rest—and had, in fact, from the communications of Mr. Ward, every reason to hope this. Under such circumstances, to put such a document into circulation appeared only calculated to increase and aggravate the evil they were so anxious to remedy. Hence, immediately on the receipt of Dr. Carey's letter to Dr. Ryland, announcing that Mrs. Marshman was the bearer of such a statement, and several days before the pamphlets themselves were delivered from the baggage warehouse, the Committee unanimously resolved, "that such a publication was wholly unnecessary," and a letter to this purpose was immediately written to Dr. Carey. This letter was shewn to Mrs. Marshman, who appeared, at least, to acquiesce in the measure. I never heard of Mr. Ward's applying for a copy of the Statement, or of any complaint that it had been refused him. That the publication of this pamphlet, or of the letter of September 1817, would have been highly injurious to the cause of Serampore, is, I believe, the opinion of every member of the Committee best capable of judging, and fully borne out by the feelings now developed wherever the subject becomes known.*

' 4. I shall not make any particular remarks on the long history of their proceedings which follows, and which is designed to shew that, for many years past, the Serampore brethren have been actually independent of the Society. This history refers, almost entirely, to a period with the interior events of which the present acting members of the Committee have but little acquaintance. I well remember the astonishment excited in the Committee, on the receipt of the letter of September 1817, at finding it stated that there had been a separation of funds ever since the year 1809, and am equally certain that it was the general impression that Serampore and the Society were one! I may remark further, that a quotation which has been repeatedly made from one of Mr. Fuller's last letters to India seems to convey an idea that he did not imagine that such an independence existed. I refer to that expression, "that if ever the Society should attempt to legislate for Serampore, he should expect them to issue a declaration of independence." Surely this does not appear as if he

* * They complain of stifling their Statement, in which they say they carefully avoided any reflection on the Committee; and yet the very Statement began with visiting on *us* (for to some in England it would have been applied) Mr. Ward's own expression, used in a letter written before any of us had seen him: "an expression said to be dropped in private conversation with Dr. Ryland."—Nay, in a letter he wrote to Serampore, before I saw him, two days after he landed at Liverpool.' *Dr. Ryland.*

considered them so already! It is said, in reference to certain facts here narrated, that we "ought to be well acquainted" with them. This very expression points out a source of much of the embarrassment under which we have laboured, i. e. the private and confidential way in which the affairs of the mission, for many years, were managed—as a consequence of which no records exist by which the present Committee can become acquainted with many facts which they "ought" familiarly to know.

5. As to the letter from Oxford, the facts of the case are as stated in our public letter of April 1821. The *particular subject* of Trusteeship was brought before us, in a very impressive manner, by Mr. Ward's letter of March preceding, which assumed almost as much of a public form, as any document ever received from Serampore. To enable you to judge of this, and to determine for yourself what agreement there is between the views of the Serampore brethren at the period of its date, and as developed in their present letter, I shall annex a copy of it for your perusal. The mode in which the apprehended difficulty was to be obviated (viz. by an increased number of Trustees) was "to be suggested to the General Committee,"* as a subject of future consideration, and assumed nothing like an official shape. It is much to be regretted that no copy of the letter written on that occasion, by our venerable Secretary, Dr. Ryland, should have been preserved. I can hardly suppose that it deserved the reflection cast upon the writer as one "scarcely at all acquainted with the circumstances which preceded it;" and if some little inaccuracy should prove to have taken place in transmitting the Resolution in question, it arose from the entire confidence reposed by Dr. Ryland in those to whom he was writing. And here, I cannot but remark, that it appears perfectly astonishing that, in the letter now before me, as well as on a former occasion, these brethren should venture to make an invidious distinction between Dr. Ryland and other members of the Committee, by associating his name with those of Fuller and Sutcliff, as in opposition. Have they, then, forgotten the correspondence of that venerable man for these five years past, part of which it was found easier to *burn* than to *answer*? Can they mention a single individual from whom they have received such forcible remonstrances and faithful reproofs as from this "ancient friend?" It is well known in England, however, that the very individual who is best acquainted with the early history of the mission has felt most aggrieved by the recent conduct of the brethren at Serampore; and many have not scrupled to avow their conviction that such conduct would never have been adopted had Fuller remained to manage the affairs of the Society.

6. The remarks which follow respecting the supposed *assumption* of the Committee, in proposing Trustees in England, might surely have been spared, since, when first it was discovered, in the year 1818, that such a strange interpretation had been put upon the letter

* This phrase is copied, *verbatim*, from the minute entered at the time.

of the Committee, the most ample and explicit declarations were made that no such thing was ever intended—and these declarations have subsequently been renewed again and again. But, indeed, the feature of which we complain distinguishes this whole document. Charges, which as we apprehend, never had any foundation but in the imagination of our accusers, are gravely re-stated, and in the very language, too, employed more than five years ago; and this, notwithstanding those charges were met at once by a reply, which would, we believe, in the judgment of every impartial person, be deemed amply sufficient to protect us against any such injurious repetition. Can this be regarded as an evidence of a conciliatory spirit?

‘ 7. On the strange oversight by which Dr. Carey is made, in a document signed by himself, to eulogize his own “wisdom and firmness,” I shall only remark that it sufficiently indicates that the letter was drawn up by some other hand. Neither shall I dwell on the allusion made, in the next paragraph but one, to some recent transactions among our junior brethren at Calcutta, especially as the Committee are expecting some explanations of that affair, which may probably induce them to look upon it with less disapprobation than they now do. At any rate, this has nothing to do with the questions at issue between Serampore and the Committee.

‘ 8. In our letter of April 25, in order to shew our brethren on what grounds we concluded that they had exposed themselves to a charge of inconsistency, we extracted, *from the Periodical Accounts*, which I need hardly remark have been, from the commencement of the mission, the official publication of the Society (as well as from other sources), those declarations of their own with which we apprehend their present conduct is totally at variance. Yet this, you observe (see page 6) is treated with the utmost contempt. “These weak attempts” have been observed “with grief and pity,” and the “folly” displayed in them is affirmed “only to shew the strength of our unrighteous desires.” But, surely, the brethren who signed this letter could not impose on themselves so grossly, as to imagine that the charge of inconsistency could be disposed of so lightly as this! If they could, it exhibits one of the most remarkable proofs of infatuation with which I am acquainted. Alas! they seem to be quite ignorant that these early testimonies of the disinterested humility and self-devotion with which they entered on their work, and which are now derided as “*paper constitutions*,” laid the foundation for much of that applause and veneration in which they have been held by the whole Christian community! I will only add, that in making these quotations, the Committee, as they foresaw, have only anticipated the voice of other friends. Those to whom the facts, even in the most favourable way, have been made known, have instantly referred to the same passages, and have even fancied that something of a predictive spirit may be discerned in the following words, contained in the “Form of Agreement” adopted and signed by all the Missionaries at Serampore, October 7, 1805. “If we give up the Resolution which was formed on the subject of private trade, when we first united at Serampore, the mission is, from that hour a lost cause. A worldly

spirit, quarrels, and every evil work will succeed, the moment it is admitted that each brother may do something on his own account. Woe to that man who shall ever make the smallest movement towards such a measure!" The solemn "agreement," from which these words are quoted, was deemed so peculiarly valuable by Mr. Fuller, that, not content with its insertion in the Periodical Accounts, a considerable number were printed in a separate form!

9. From the manner in which our letters of June and August 1818 are referred to, in page 7, you would naturally conclude that they were conceived in a hostile spirit.—I wish I could annex both these letters to my present communication, but as this, perhaps, would be thought to involve the necessity of adding the previous letter from Serampore of September 1817, which is a pamphlet of itself, I am prevented from doing so. It may be sufficient to remark that of the latter Dr. Carey himself wrote, "*It met all our hearts.*" Yet these letters never were replied to, although nearly six months must have elapsed, subsequently to their arrival in India, before the inquiry was received there which forms the next ground of complaint.

10. The letter in question was dated in January 1819, and though attempts have been made, in previous communications as well as in this, to fix the sole responsibility on the individual whose signature it bore, it contained in the very first paragraph, clear and decisive evidence that it was an official document. It originated in the perplexity and embarrassment brought upon the Committee in consequence of the complaints alleged against Dr. Marshman, and especially referring to the frequent reports brought from India respecting the splendour and magnificence of his domestic establishment at Serampore. These representations, proceeding from individuals unconnected with the mission, had already occasioned considerable injury, and much more was apprehended. Statements on the subject had previously been sent to Dr. Marshman himself; but no answer had been received. The welfare of the mission was thought imperiously to require that the Committee should be furnished with a reply to these accusations. But how was it to be obtained? Whence, but from his venerable friend, Dr. Carey, could we hope to procure such a testimony as should vindicate the character of Dr. Marshman from the charges brought against it? Had we applied to any other quarter, when we had so competent a witness on the spot, we might have been charged with unkindness. Had we taken no notice of the rumours alluded to, it might have been alleged that we were indifferent to the reputation of our Missionaries. What other course, then, could have been taken?—And as, just at the same time, we had been informed by one of the junior brethren, that Dr. Carey had signed the joint letter of September, 1817, without fully considering its contents, (an intimation which fully accords with the impression, on the subject of correspondence generally, which, whether it be just or not, prevails extensively up to the present hour,) the Committee deemed it but just to both parties to mention this, when writing to their esteemed brother. It is true that their letter was answered in a very indignant tone, but it seems difficult, even now, to discover any adequate reason for the

displeasure then displayed. I believe that astonishment and deep regret were very generally felt in the Committee, on account of the eminent person already mentioned, when they perused the avowal, under his own hand, that he had "weighed every clause of that (1817) letter, perhaps one hundred times."

' 11. This serves to introduce another charge against the Committee, founded on their having quoted an expression from Mr. Ward's letter to his colleagues, written before he had seen an individual in England. It is not, however, denied that the strong expression referred to was used by Mr. Ward, nor is the inference drawn from it invalidated, except by the assertion that it did not relate to the settlement of the property at Serampore, but to their articles of union and the College premises! On this statement I will not allow myself to comment, except by proposing two or three questions. 1. Was not Mr. Ward's letter, in which he declared that "he would not go back to clothe himself with eternal infamy," written in May or June, 1819; and the "Articles of Union," dated at Serampore, January, 1820? 2. Was there ever any dispute between the Society and the Serampore Missionaries respecting the said articles and the settlement of the College premises? 3. Did Mr. Ward ever hint at such an interpretation of his words while in England? 4. Why did he urge it, again and again, upon the Committee, to get all matters in difference finally settled while himself and Dr. Carey were alive?

' 12. What follows respecting the brethren at Calcutta proves, but too clearly, that the hostile disposition so long cherished against the junior missionaries is still in existence. The previous indications of this temper, so contrary to the spirit of the Gospel, had been so painful to the Committee, that, at the close of 1819, they had solemnly and affectionately urged it upon both parties, to meet and agree, mutually, to bury their differences. This admonition from the Committee had been complied with—and from that time the correspondence from Calcutta has proved the happy effects, as far as they were concerned, resulting from the measure. And yet, with this admonition in their recollection—the only step taken by the Committee in reference to these unhappy local disputes, do they imply that we are supporting *a war establishment* against Serampore! That the Missionary proceedings of the Calcutta brethren have been viewed in this light at Serampore, and that Mr. Ward himself, while in England, went so far as to urge the Committee to prohibit the printing of any Translations of the Scriptures at Calcutta, although he well knew how slowly that work proceeded at Serampore, are facts which must be acknowledged with "peculiar pain." But what authority any man on earth can have for saying that these brethren, most of whom were sent by themselves to Calcutta, settled there as "their *avowed and determined enemies*," or that they were supported there as *a war establishment*, I am yet to learn. I must say, that, irksome as it is to lay under groundless imputations, I would much sooner be the *object* than the *author* of such charges as these.

' 13. From the remarks which follow, respecting the stations supported respectively by the Committee, and the Serampore brethren, it

might be inferred that the former acted unjustly in withholding a part of the contributions raised in this country, while at the same time representing the whole of the stations as though maintained by themselves. But what are the facts? In the better days of the Mission, the Serampore brethren strenuously urged on the Committee to enlarge the number of their Missionaries to the utmost possible extent, stating as a plea their own ability not only to maintain themselves, but to devote a considerable sum to the support of the Gospel at other stations. These representations were listened to; but when, by this course, and other means, the Society had become most deeply involved in debt, these brethren suddenly turn round, and ask for £1500 per annum out of the collections for general purposes; while yet, it is acknowledged in this very letter that, "till their present means greatly fail, but little" will be needed for them. Thus, they required what it was *impossible* for the Committee to *give*, and *unnecessary* for themselves to *receive*! Really, there seems to be too much ground for the apprehension, repeatedly expressed by some intelligent members of the Committee, that the object of this application was, in fact, rather to prevent supplies going to *Calcutta*, than to obtain them for themselves! It is surely very unfair, in the same paragraph, to represent the junior brethren as expending but a small part of the salaries paid them by the Society, since it was well known to the writers that these salaries would not be sufficient for their support, but for the additions made by the industry of those who received them, and that the balance remaining in the hands of these brethren consisted of the surplus arising from their own earnings. That the Serampore Missionaries have been long in the habit of supporting native and country born itinerants at various stations is well known to the Christian world, and has uniformly been stated to their praise by the Committee and friends and advocates of the Society at large. It is, however, perfectly understood that the *expense* of such stations is trifling compared with those occupied by Europeans. As to the mode of publishing the intelligence, it may be sufficient to remark, that it is a continuation of the plan acted on by Mr. Fuller, when, as our Serampore friends assure us, the stations were as really distinct as now. To have made an alteration, would have answered no other purpose than to exhibit a palpable mark of disunion—a consequence of which probably our brethren at Serampore would have loudly complained, and which the Committee have, all along, laboured most earnestly to avoid.

‘ 14. The paragraphs on the subject of accounts, cannot well be noticed without entering into details of inconvenient length, and which after all would be scarcely intelligible, unless the accounts themselves were annexed. It seems strange however, that it should be so confidently asserted that their accounts, sent annually, lay by us, unexamined, when they had been fully apprized of the perplexity and embarrassment into which we had been thrown for want of *any* accounts! This was a very principal difficulty which devolved upon the Committee at the death of Mr. Fuller, and from which nothing but a series of anxious and persevering efforts at length delivered

them. Of the correctness with which the accounts were kept at Serampore some idea may be formed from the fact that the Committee were charged twice over with one item—and that of no less an amount than 3189*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* Of this error, as well as others, they had been informed ere this letter was written—but no direct notice has ever been taken of that—while on the other hand, they gravely rebuke us for inattention and negligence on the head of accounts—of inattention and negligence in regard of that which they had just been assured by us we had been perplexed for the want of!

‘ 15. On the subject of Mr. N. Ward’s settlement at Sumatra, I will only say that either Mr. Ward (of Serampore) could not have read the letter before he signed it, or that he must have laboured under a singular defect of memory. When he was in England, he made it a matter of *serious complaint*, in conversation with a member of the Committee, that Dr. Marshman had sent away his nephew from Serampore, on the plea that he had not *weight* enough for that station; and yet here, he appears, by his signature, to substantiate the assertion that he was sent to Sumatra, “solely with the view of advancing our Missionary interests!”

‘ 16. Respecting the Trusteeship, mentioned in the next paragraph, it seems enough simply to observe, that the statement here given of their own views and feelings on that point, amply justifies all the Committee have said upon it. We have uniformly expressed our opinion, in strict accordance with that contained in Mr. Ward’s letter of March 1816, that the property at Serampore was not secured, for Missionary purposes, in such a way as, from the professions of the Serampore brethren, the Christian public in Britain had a right to expect. For stating this opinion, and proposing the means of supplying the deficiency, the Committee have been charged as “treating them with a suspicion which could only be indulged towards the most arrant villains.” And now, after all, the Serampore brethren themselves find, on examination, that the mode of settling the premises *was* unsatisfactory, make one alteration, and profess their willingness to make others. Thus they have, in fact, allowed the validity of the objections, for making which they have inveighed against the Committee, as guilty of rapacity and oppression!

‘ Thus, my dear sir, I have, at the risk of exhausting your patience, gone through this memorable letter, and animadverted upon the several charges against the Committee which it contains. It has been my endeavour to “nothing extenuate, or set down aught in malice,” nor shall I lengthen this communication, already so prolix, by those general remarks which occur, after having thus attentively considered the whole document afresh. As a *fact*, however, it is of importance to state that the strain of the whole letter was felt by the Committee to be as *unexpected* as it was *unjust*. When Mr. Ward personally conferred with the Committee upon *their* letter of April 25, a copy of which he had in his hand, there was nothing of the spirit of this reply discoverable: and when soon afterwards he quitted England, and for a second and last time on earth bid farewell to a faithful and long tried friend, (Mr. Burls,) who, in parting, expressed his earnest hope

that nothing hostile or unfriendly would again occur, Mr. Ward assured him that he need not fear it. No sooner had the same letter reached *Dr. Carey*, than he writes, the very next day, to Mr. Burls, "I am fully of opinion that all things hostile ought to cease." This pacific expression was dated October 5, and cheered our hearts with the fond hope that, at length, a period would be put to strife and accusation—when lo! in about two short months after, this indictment of nine closely printed pages was dispatched to undeceive us, and Mr. John Marshman's arrival was the period fixed upon for scattering throughout the kingdom—wherever, at least, a member of the Committee resided—these specious charges against the acting members of the body!

'I do not imagine the Committee will think it necessary or expedient to make any official reply to this letter. Argument, explanation, remonstrance, and intreaty have been tried, and tried in vain—other arms they have none. They are not ignorant of the consequences which may follow from the course which their Serampore brethren have chosen to adopt. They conceive, however, that the efforts they have made to induce an alteration in that course, will exonerate them from all the blame, and they sincerely regret that their endeavours to protect the reputation of brethren, whom they do not cease to esteem, should have been so strangely misunderstood, and so injuriously misrepresented. They have now thought it the most dignified and Christian course to accept, as the basis of future connexion, the terms tendered for that purpose by Mr. John Marshman, and while they silently await the issue with regard to Serampore, will exert themselves to the utmost in promoting the cause of God where they can: happy if the declining days of brethren, with whom they have never differed but with keen regret, shall be cheered by many tokens of divine approbation—happier still, if, in those whom they may select as their successors, they shall perceive that humility, devotion, and spiritual mindedness which can alone preserve Serampore from sinking into a merely secular establishment, and render it a permanent blessing to the millions of India!

' I am,

' My dear Sir,

' Yours very cordially,

' JOHN DYER.'

The letter from Serampore, to which we have now been referring, left the Committee little ground to hope that any advantage would attend further correspondence; in lieu of which, therefore, they held repeated conferences with Mr. John Marshman, whom they had reason to consider a representative of the Serampore Union. That gentleman, at the request of the Committee, submitted to them a statement of his views of the nature of the connexion which might in future be considered as subsisting between the Society at home

and the friends at Serampore; and as this plan included a provision 'for securing the establishment there to the great objects for which it was instituted, so as to admit of the aid, co-operation, and interference of the Society, if necessary,' the Committee acceded to it, rather than prolong discussions which promised no beneficial result.*

Subsequently to the date of that agreement, (October 10, 1822,) no information was received by the Committee on the subject; nor was it ever formally resumed, till those interviews took place between us and Dr. Marshman, which have already been narrated. Here, therefore, my narrative might close, but that it is necessary to advert to the applications made, at various times, to the Committee, for pecuniary aid, both for the College, and the Missionary stations connected with Serampore.

It has already been mentioned, that one object which Mr. Ward had in view in re-visiting Britain was to solicit help for the College, the expense of which so far exceeded the original computation as to absorb the funds which had been previously devoted by the Serampore brethren to Missionary efforts. Mr. Ward soon discovered in his intercourse with the Christian public at home, that it was only for that department of the College which respected the preparation of the native students for the Christian Ministry that he could hope to obtain contributions; and therefore he publicly announced,† that whatever donations he received should be funded in this country, and the annual proceeds applied expressly to that object. He collected about £2600, which sum was invested accordingly in Government securities, under the direction of Trustees nominated by Mr. Ward, and the dividends have been regularly transmitted to Serampore from that time to the present.‡

On the 20th of February, 1823, Mr. John Marshman addressed a letter to the Committee, bringing the necessities of the College before them. 'The literary department of the Institution,' he remarked, 'has been provided for in a great measure in India; and it is as a nursery for native Missionaries that its founders solicit the aid of the British public.' He proceeded to inform the Committee that a

* See this agreement in the 'Statement,' page 152.

† In the Missionary Herald for January 1820.

‡ A sum of equal, if not larger, amount, collected by Mr. Ward in the United States of America, has been invested in the same way.

78 Engagement of the Committee on Behalf of the College.

recent tour he had made through the country was chiefly intended to ascertain what degree of support might be anticipated from 'the provincial supporters' of the Society; and suggested as the result, either that the active and zealous exertions of those who were alive to the importance of the object might be secured for its promotion, or that the annual sum of £1000 should be appropriated from the general funds of the Society for this purpose.

Perhaps, it was not unreasonable to expect that such an application would have been accompanied by information as to the number of Missionary Students then in the College, and the excess of the expenditure on their account beyond the sums annually furnished for their support from England and America,* but no such data were afforded to guide the decision of the Committee. Still, the object appeared so important that, at the quarterly meeting, March 13, when this letter was taken into consideration, it was unanimously

'Resolved, That the Committee, fully aware of the great importance of the education of pious natives for the Christian ministry, will, to the utmost of their power, defray whatever expenses may be incurred in the prosecution of that object in the Serampore College, beyond the amount of interest of the funds invested for the purpose in this country; it being understood that the students so maintained are members of approved Baptist churches, and that this assistance will be rendered in conformity with the terms of the deed executed by Mr. Ward while in England.'

In the month of August following, soon after intelligence of the death of Mr. Ward had reached this country, Mr. John Marshman wrote to the Committee, inquiring whether they could, during a limited period, remit a sum to Serampore for Missionary purposes (if it should be required) equal to that annually furnished to the station at Calcutta.

As the Society, never possessing any reserved funds, has always found it necessary to employ very strenuous exertions in order to supply its *regular* demands, such an application involved considerable difficulty. The sum which the Committee were thus solicited to place at the disposal of the Serampore Missionaries was very considerable, in proportion to their scanty resources; while the vague and indefinite terms in which the proposal was made, left it

* 'Ten pounds, or the interest of only £200 would send one native Missionary into the harvest every year; and fifteen pounds a year would maintain him perpetually.'—*Mr. Ward*. See *Missionary Herald*, March 1820.

uncertain whether it would ever be actually called for, or how long the appropriation, if made at all, would be required. It was felt, too, that if any part of the funds entrusted to the Committee were thus disposed of, they should know who were the actual recipients: and it appeared most eligible to make such payments through the medium of the Society's bankers in Calcutta, according to the plan uniformly pursued in other cases. From these considerations the Committee, at the quarterly meeting, in September came to the following Resolution:

‘ That a letter be written to Drs. Carey and Marshman, assuring them of the desire of the Committee to render them all the pecuniary assistance in their power, in addition to the provision made for Students at the College, by the Resolution of March 13, last—that the Committee fear they shall not be able to do all they could wish, as it is highly probable their funds will be diminished, in consequence of the exertions which have lately been made to pay off the debt, for some time to come—but that, in the event of an application being made to them by their brethren at Serampore, accompanied by a particular statement of the Stations and Missionaries for whom support is needed, they will take such part of the same on themselves as their resources will allow, and direct payment to be made, by their agents, Alexander & Co. accordingly.*

In conformity with the spirit of this Resolution, and previously to the receipt of the information which had been requested, a grant of £1000 was made to the Serampore

* Under date of November 13, the following minute occurs:—

‘ The Secretary stated that he had seen a letter from Mrs. Marshman, of Serampore, addressed to a female friend in this country, stating that several female schools had recently been established at and near Serampore; on which it was resolved, That the sum of £150 out of the Female Education Fund be remitted to the brethren at Serampore, to be applied to the use of the female schools under Mrs. Marshman's care.’ Subsequent grants to a considerable amount have been made in the same way. The reader will judge whether the vote of money, *previous to any application*, indicates an ‘unamicable spirit.’

As to the general spirit of the Committee towards Serampore, the following testimony may have some weight even with Mr. Foster. ‘ The affection manifested by the Committee in general, and by its particular members . . . has been a cordial to our minds of the most refreshing nature.’ Yet high as is the personal enjoyment I derive from the spirit of Christian sympathy thus manifested to us by you and our brethren with you in the Committee, I acknowledge that the aspect this mutual union of soul between us and them bears on the cause, to which twenty-five years of the best of my life have been devoted, forms its highest enjoyment to me I rejoice that such a spirit of sincere undissembled affection to us is given to our brethren at home.’—*Dr. Marshman to Mr. Shaw, November 15, 1824.*

friends, for their Missionary Stations, in March, 1824. Another application for the same object, but containing no reference to the specific appropriation of the sum already forwarded, was received in the following year,* and taken into consideration at the quarterly meeting, September 8, 1825, when it was unanimously resolved—

‘ I. That, under the circumstances stated in the letter now read, the request of our Serampore brethren be complied with, and the sum of £1000 placed to their credit accordingly, in the account now standing between them and the Society; but that, in communicating this Resolution, it be expressly stated that the Committee wish to receive accounts of the manner in which this and the former grant to the same amount have been expended; and that, in conformity with the spirit of our Resolution of September 11, 1823, it is fully expected that any future application of this nature be accompanied by a particular statement of the Stations and Missionaries for whom support is needed.

‘ II. That, in reference to the request made to the Committee by the Serampore brethren, to audit the accounts from 1805 to 1812, inclosed in their letter, it appears that the Committee have no documents in their possession which will enable them to enter into the examination desired.

‘ III. That a letter, fully embracing the above points, be prepared and signed by Mr. Shaw, as Chairman, on behalf of the Committee.’

The following letter was drawn up and forwarded in conformity with the last minute,

London, October, 1825.

‘ DEAR BRETHREN,

‘ Your joint letter of the 19th of January last arrived in due course, and having been fully considered at our last quarterly meeting, we hasten to communicate our unanimous sentiments thereon.

‘ We certainly did expect, in the event of your finding it necessary to renew your application for pecuniary aid, on account of the Missionary Stations under your direction, that some reference would have been made to our former correspondence on the subject, especially to the Resolution passed at our quarterly meeting in September 1823, and immediately transmitted to you. If there be reasons which appear to your minds sufficient to justify your declining to go the whole length of that Resolution, we should be obliged by your stating them; but, at all events, in order to meet inquiry, and justify the confidence reposed in us, by the body of our subscribers, we feel ourselves compelled to entreat that an account may be rendered of the

* The letter was dated, Serampore, January 19.

application of the sums voted for your disposal from the fund for general purposes. It would have been very acceptable, had such an account of the appropriation of the sum of £1000 voted last year accompanied the present application, and we request it may yet be furnished.

‘ In the mean while, since from the circumstances you have stated, it appears that delay may expose you to inconvenience, we have not hesitated to vote a second grant of £1000, which our Secretary has been directed to place to your credit in an account shortly to be handed to you. It must, however, be explicitly understood, that you will send us without delay, a statement of the particular objects and individuals in providing for whom the money is expended, and that full information on these points will be deemed necessary to justify the Committee in attending to any such application in future.*

‘ We cannot but observe, that one part of your present letter very fully confirms the opinion we entertain on this subject. In consequence of certain charges lately brought against you in Calcutta, you have enclosed an Abstract of Accounts from 1805 to 1812, with a request that we would audit and return them with our vouchers for their correctness. Had this been in our power, we should most readily have complied with your wishes : but you must be aware we have no documents that will enable us to institute the examination you require. The correspondence of our Secretary with you on financial subjects several years since, will shew with what difficulty the accounts between yourselves and the Society were reduced at that time into any thing like proper order. It is to prevent a recurrence of such a state of things, and to be in possession of means promptly and satisfactorily to repel any injurious charges or insinuations to which we are constantly liable, that we deem such statements as are now desired, indispensable.

‘ While adverting to this fact, you will allow us to express our concern, that as far as we can learn, no decisive steps have yet been taken by you to secure the property at Serampore for the great purposes to which it has been professedly devoted. Without entering into any details on this subject, we will merely observe that the opinion we expressed thereon in our letter of April 25, 1821, remains to this day unaltered. Indeed, if we merely look back to the statement mutually adopted by ourselves and your Mr. John Marshman, under date of October 10, 1822, the second article clearly intimates the conviction then felt by us, and as we thought, participated by Mr. Marshman, that a different arrangement on this subject was absolutely called for, from regard to your own reputation. Whatever may have been the motives of those who lately published, in Calcutta, animadversions on your conduct, we cannot but feel, as we distinctly forewarned you, more than seven years ago, that on this point your best friends will find it difficult to defend you from the charge of inconsistency. We are surprised to find that your opponents

* It is proper to observe that these accounts were subsequently furnished.

had procured and published a copy of your printed letter of September 1817 : and should regret to find their coadjutors in this country, who are equally active and determined, adopting the same course, as it would probably compel us to state these differences of opinion which we trusted would, long ere now, have disappeared for ever.

‘ In the letter now before us, you state that you have associated with yourselves in missionary labour our friend and brother Mr. Mack. From our knowledge of Mr. Mack’s character, we were persuaded from the first that he would naturally care for the state of the heathen, and exert himself in every way compatible with his other engagements, for their benefit ; and as far as information has reached us, we have been gratified to see that the result has answered our expectations. Knowing therefore his readiness to take part in Missionary labour, we thought it probable that he had been admitted into the Missionary Union, but as his name does not appear attached to your joint letter, this conjecture does not seem to be well founded.

‘ We observe, too, with some concern, that, in the following paragraph the Mission Stations are described as connected with Serampore College. Such an union, we are convinced, would be very unsatisfactory to the great body of serious Christians in this country ; in proof of which, we need only remind you that Mr. Ward found it vain to attempt procuring subscriptions for the College *generally*, and pledged himself, therefore, that all contributions, or the interest of them, received by him, “ should be applied to the distinct purpose of training native Missionaries for the service of the gospel.” Whatever advantages may ultimately be derived from the establishment of the College, it cannot, we apprehend, be considered as a missionary institution ; and therefore we conceive, the regulation of missionary stations should not be directly and officially connected with it.

‘ We have been the more desirous to express, thus frankly, our opinions on the subjects to which your letter relates, because, in communications lately received from Dr. Marshman by some of our number, there appears to be a degree of misconception as to our views and sentiments thereon. At the same time we beg to assure you of our sincere and unabated concern, that, in whatever tends to promote the glory of God and the good of souls, the work of your hands may be established upon you, and of our willingness to co-operate with you in all such undertakings, to the utmost of our ability.

We are,

Dear Brethren,

Affectionately yours,

Signed, at the request, and on behalf
of the Committee,

BENJAMIN SHAW.
CHAIRMAN.

Before this letter reached Serampore, Dr. Marshman had embarked for England, with the view of making some permanent arrangements on behalf of the stations connected

with Serampore College, and also of soliciting public aid on behalf of the College itself.* His first interview with the Committee took place on the 11th July, 1826, when the minutes and correspondence which have now been given were communicated to him, and the further consideration of the business was adjourned till the 3rd of August following. Of that meeting an account has already been given in the former part of this narrative.†

THE attentive reader of the preceding sheets will have perceived, in his progress, that the following points have, more or less distinctly, been brought into discussion between the brethren at Serampore and the Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society.

1. Whether Missionaries, enabled in the course of Providence to maintain themselves without any pecuniary aid from the Society which sent them out, become, in consequence, completely independent, in all respects, of the Society?

On this question, involving a general principle of great importance to all missionary institutions, the Committee have expressed no opinion. It is obvious that, in order to decide it correctly, it must be viewed in its *general* application, and not as it may affect any particular *individuals*.

2. The mode of securing the premises, and other Missionary property at Serampore, to the purposes to which all has been professedly devoted.

Here it will be noted that *the Committee have made no demand whatever, either of premises or property, for the Society*. When it was perceived that the suggestion respecting Trusteeship was so unwelcome, it was never resumed; but the Serampore friends were solicited so to secure the premises, as 'to meet the just expectations of the Christian public in Britain.'‡

3. The propriety of confiding the care and government of Missionary Stations to the council of a College, such College

* The annual income of the College, in January 1826, was stated at £1000, including the interest of the sums invested on its behalf in this country and in America: in addition to which it must be remembered that the Committee, by their Resolution in March 1823, took upon themselves to defray whatever expenses may be incurred in educating Missionary Students. I have not observed the slightest reference to this vote in the 'Statement.'

† See page 19, *et seq.*

‡ See Resolutions of the Committee, December 31, 1819.

being only in part a Missionary institution, and its council self-elected, holding their stations for life, and responsible to no other body whatever.

To such an arrangement the Committee decidedly and unanimously objected; and some months afterwards, Dr. Marshman publicly acknowledged it was objectionable.

4. Whether the Society, maintaining, or principally supporting, certain Missionary Stations abroad, ought to have any share whatever in the direction or management of them—so as to have the means of restraining the expenditure within such limits as the other engagements of the Society rendered necessary?

5. Whether, provided the Society allotted for the Serampore stations as large an annual sum as their finances would possibly allow, they could sanction a further appeal for the same object, through a distinct and independent agency, to the parties who had previously contributed towards it through the medium of the Society?

I need not add, that the separation was principally occasioned by the opposite sentiments of Dr. Marshman and the Committee, on the two last of these questions.

AFTER having occupied your attention so long, my dear Sir, by narrating the proceedings of the Committee, in reference to the points adverted to in the Statement of Dr. Marshman, I feel no inclination to add to the number of these pages by any further remarks on the history they contain. It has been my earnest endeavour, in giving that history, not merely to state facts as they occurred, but to adopt that mode of stating them which should have the least tendency to bias the reader's mind. It is more than probable that I have failed in clearness and perspicuity; but for this defect it may, perhaps, be admitted as some apology, that a very brief interval only, rescued from other important and pressing avocations, could be devoted to the execution of a task, of no common delicacy, and requiring, for its adequate performance, a considerable period of unbroken attention. Of the reluctance with which it was undertaken, and the solicitude with which it has been prosecuted, you are not entirely ignorant. No personal considerations, I may safely affirm, would have prevailed with me to step forward, though reputation is as dear to me as to others; and the diminution of esteem and

confidence, on the part of those for whom I have long cherished both, inflicts a wound I am ill qualified to sustain. Nor should I have deemed it necessary to vindicate the Committee, had the censures directed against them affected their individual characters merely. Not to advert to those who are hidden in the silent grave, but whose memory is still fragrant among us, many of the surviving members are known in other connexions as well as in that denomination of Christians to which they especially belong; and multitudes will require something beyond vehement assertion to convince them that men who have grown grey in the service of religion, have, all the while, been wilfully transgressing its most obvious precepts. But higher considerations appeared to render such a publication as the present indispensable. Without impeaching the motives which have actuated our friends at Serampore, it may fairly be questioned whether the principles and conduct against which we have borne a reluctant testimony do not tend, in proportion as they may prevail, to impair the exertions and endanger the prosperity of all missionary institutions whatever. As to our own Society, it is most obvious that the representations which have gone forth respecting the Committee, must have been attended with the most injurious effects, had not some attempt been made to counteract them, by a more candid and ample relation of the facts of the case. To have withheld such a relation, when the welfare of the Society was at stake, seemed inconsistent with the positive claims of duty. In our present circumstances, a diminution of resources, which must inevitably follow the withdrawment of public confidence, would render it needful at once to contract our sphere of Missionary operations, and recall some useful and devoted labourers from the field. You are perfectly aware that we have already been constrained to borrow funds to a considerable amount, in order to escape this painful alternative; but, surely, in the present state of the Society, a contrary line of conduct would have exposed the Committee to merited censure. If to endure afflictions, and to be rendered successful, may each be regarded as indications of the divine favour—as proofs that the servants of Christ are advancing in the very footsteps of their Master—of each the Society has had, of late, no inconsiderable experience. To say nothing of the progress made at several of our stations in the eastern world, the constant and numerous accessions to our missionary churches in the west, ought to inspire every friend of the Redeemer and of souls with renewed zeal and the liveliest

joy. In Jamaica alone, the number of individuals connected with our Mission, either as members or inquirers, is little short of Ten thousand; while, both in that quarter and in India, the urgent demand for new Missionaries, and the occupation of new stations, is continually repeated.

While, therefore, the friends of the Society may concur with the Committee in sincerely lamenting that the course of events has rendered it necessary to issue such a publication as this, it may well moderate their regret to remember that the mission was never so extensively useful as at present. May this consideration inspire us with humble gratitude, render us increasingly watchful against the prevalence of any motives or spirit inconsistent with the sacred cause we are associated to promote, and animate us to fresh and persevering exertions in its support!

I am,

My dear Sir,

Very sincerely and respectfully yours,

JOHN DYER.

FEN COURT, *July 14, 1828.*

